DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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Charity shop hits its 25th birthday
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Brian re-united with his beloved old car
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Athletes show off marathon medals
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TRADERS WANT CLOSURE HELP

TRADERS are demanding compensation after hearing that two major road in Dudley will stay closed to traffic for months longer than planned.

by Lee Watton

Businesses claim to have suffered a significant drop in trade since Castle Street and New Street were closed in January for the first phase of a £6.7 million project to improve the town's market place.

The roads, in the heart of the town centre, were due to reopen at the end of May.

But Dudley Council has announced they will remain closed until the late in summer after the project suffered 'unavoidable delays'.

Traders along the road were told at a meeting held by council bosses.

Some have called for compensation claiming the closure has already impacted on their business causing them to miss out on thousands of pounds.

The delays have been put down to issues involving underground utility pipes and cables.

Clive Baker, who has run Capital Applicance Centre in Castle Street for more than 20 years, said: "This has seriously disrupted trade for businesses on both roads.

Mess

"In one week I would usually make between £7,000 and £10,000. Now I am lucky to make £2,000 over the same period.

"Now we haven't even got a firm date for when the work will finish all we have been told is late-summer.

"When exactly will that be, August or September.

"It is not only because cars cannot use the roads we are having problems. It is such a mess a lot of older people are avoiding coming into this part of this town centre. This delay is a real blow to all of the businesses here."

Market stallholders have been offered a 30 per cent rent discount to compensate for lost trade.

Mr Baker said he was also looking for compensation from the authority. "I do not know how successful this will be but something needs to be done," he said.

Council bosses said businesses would be given regular updates as the work progresses.

They are also looking at the possibility of providing temporary car parking in New Street .

John Millar, director of the urban environment, said: "Major refurbishment and reconstruction projects such as this are always challenging particularly in town centre locations where it is important to maintain the best possible access to shops and businesses.

"While works in Castle Street and New Street are being extended due to unavoidable issues on site I am confident the new market place and surrounding area will be a major boost to trade and will attract new investment."

Darters take aim to raise money

Ella Breeze with, from left: Shaun Breeze, Martin Rowley, Pete Whittaker and Stacey Whittaker

DART players will be stepping up to the oche for an annual charity tournament in Dudley on Saturday.

It is being held in tribute to blind player John Westwood who once defeated former world champion Eric Bristow.

The event will be held at theWelfare Club, in Commonside, Pensnett.

Mr Westwood, nicknamed Johnny Dartboard, successfully played the game despite being registered blind.

He would throw from memory hitting trebles and doubles as his team-mates would call out the score.

Mr Westwood, who was also known as The Legend, died in 2006 aged of 59 after suffering a heart attack.

The event is organised by his widow Anita. Family friend Joanne Whittaker said: "We usually have between 100 and 130 dart players and it attracts people of all ages so we get a lot of young players.

"It's a real family event which is nice because John was very family orientated.

"This event is a tribute to his memory and all he achieved in the sport."

Mr Westwood played for Worcester County Team and in 2004 he was the only darter to beat Eric Bristow in an exhibition match at the High Acres.

Cash raised will be donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Competitors are able to register until 1.45pm on the day. It costs £5 to take part and the knockout competition will begin at 2pm.

Charity shop is wrecked by blaze

A CHARITY shop in Dudley was gutted after a severe blaze tore through it engulfing fixtures and stock.

Flames took hold at the Extra Care Charitable Trust shop, Castle Street, at around 12.30pm on Saturday.

The inside of the building suffered 100 per cent heat and fire damage and 50 per cent smoke damage, according to West Midlands Fire Service.

The heat smashed a main window.

Fire crews from Dudley, Brierley Hill and Ladywood were called to tackle the blaze.

Police were also called to ensure shoppers remained at a a safe distance from the store.

Fire crews said two people in the store had got out before they arrived and no-one had been hurt despite the severity of the blaze.

The store remained boarded up ths week as investigations into the cause of the fire continued.

During the blaze, the Greggs store next door was closed early as a precaution.

Crews remained until 5.10pm to ensure the fire had not spread to other parts of the building. A fire service spokeswoman said here was still no indication of what had started the fire.

Poetic seats for market

SEATING could be created around at the heart of the multi-million regeneration of Dudley Market.

Two seats inscribed with lines from a humorous poem by Ben Boucher will be installed if Dudley Council gives the go-ahead. The 1827 poem Lines on Dudley Market takes a wry look at busy working days.

The seats and a cast bronze figure of Boucher would be next to the Fountain. Plans have been submitted by Dudley's urban environment department.

Entrance into zoo will be all lit up

DUDLEY Zoo's 'wave' entrance will be lit up as part of future plans for the attraction, bosses have revealed.

Work is taking place to restore the row of five gates and eight turnstiles as part of a multi-million pound improvement scheme at the attraction.

Metal meshing has been re-painted and part of the roof, a series of S-shaped interlocking canopies, is being painted its original blue colour.

But zoo bosses said they had further plans for the iconic entrance already in the pipeline.

They want the entrance, one of the town's best-known landmarks, to be lit up for the first time in its history.

Work to illuminate the building is expected to cost around £40,000 and officials have already submitted funding bids to secure the needed cash.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "Our aim has been to restore the entrance to how it appeared back in 1937 when the zoo was first opened.

"However, we want to take things into the future as well and already have plans for the entrance to be illuminated. Funding bids have been submitted."

● New look – Page 4

Have say on closure plan

A PUBLIC meeting is being held to give users of a mental health support service earmarked for closure the chance to air their views.

Dove House is in the grounds of Dudley's Bushey Fields Hospital and is staffed and supported by independent mental health charity Dudley Mind.

The meeting is on April 30 at Dove House from 2.30pm to 5pm.To book a place email clare.hamilton@dudleyccg.nhs.uk or ring Clare on: 01384 321764

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Events firm gives Hippodrome hope

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save the Dudley Hippodrome building have heralded a proposal by an events company to run the venue.

Arts and entertainment company Events That Rok has submitted a business plan to run the old theatre, in Castle Hill, near the zoo.

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group have long been campaigning to stop council bosses pursuing controversial plans to bulldoze the building.

They had submitted their own outline business plan to run the venue – but that was deemed unviable by independent assessors.

Council bosses want to demolish the site to make way for a £3 million education and conference centre for Dudley Zoo.

Two planning applications have been tabled to win approval to demolish the theatre-turned-bingo hall opposite the Station Hotel.

But regeneration boss, Councillor Judy Foster, has revealed the council will put the application on hold while the new business plan is put through the same assessment.

Events That Rok has spoken to the friends group over its initial interest in taking over the theatre.

The firm was co-founded by businessman Jonathan Kendrick.

His father, Vic Kendrick, owned the Castle Hill theatre in the 1960s when it was being revamped as a casino club.

Friends group chairman Gordon Downing said: ""They have been working with us. It means that we have a chance to make progress and look towards reopening it."

Pubs hit with fines over football on TV

TWO pubs in Dudley have each been hit with a court bill of more than £2,000 for showing football matches to punters on TVs in their premises without the correct licence.

The Prince Albert Inn , Wall Heath, and the Rose and Crown, Brierley Hill, were caught when Sky investigators visited and found Premiership matches being shown on Sky Sports TV without the correct licence.

Melvyn Edwards, licensee and supervisor of the Prince Albert Inn, High Street, and Mark Pritchard, a supervisor at the Rose and Crown, Bank Street, were fined.

Neither appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday, but pleaded guilty by letter.

Edwards admitted two counts of dishonestly receiving a programme with intent to avoid payment on October 19 and November 2 last year. Pritchard admitted the same offence on September 16, October 29 and November 2.

Mr Alan Richards, prosecuting on behalf of Sky, said: "Investigators visited the pubs and saw that matches were being watched on TV without the correct non-domestic licence. The pubs where then contacted over the phone and by letter."

He said Edwards was advised by Sky about showing matches, while Pritchard agreed with Sky to stop showing matches and agreed to a cease and desist order.

But when investigators revisited both pubs they found matches were still being shown. The licence for the Rose and Crown would have cost £1,108 a month and the Prince Albert's would have been £1,780.

Edwards was fined £410 for each offence with court costs of £1,200 and a £82 victim surcharge. Pritchard was fined £185 for each offence with £1,428.28 costs and a £56 victim surcharge.

The jobless queues are shrinking

HUNDREDS have come off the jobless queues in Dudley as new figures show unemployment fell by 77,000 across the UK in the three months to February, down to 2.24 million.

In the West Midlands there was a spike in unemployment, as it rose by 2,000 to 224,000 - probably due to the end of short-time Christmas jobs.

The region's jobless total is down by 28,000 on the same period last year.

Reduction

But the number's claiming jobseeker's allowance across the country fell by 30,400 in March to 1.14 million, the 17th consecutive monthly reduction according to the Office for National Statistics.

In Dudley the claimant count fell by 228 to 7,998, or 4.1 per cent of the borough's working population.

But the claimant rate is still well above the national average of 2.9 per cent.

Nationwide employment has increased by 691,000 over the past year, giving a rate of 72.6 per cent, the best for six years, with a record 30.3 million people in work.

Towering fun at theatre

He knows nothing . . . Matthew Webb, Kenneth Baker and Victoria Saunders rehearse

MUCH-LOVED scenes from legendary British comedy Fawlty Towers will be re-created by a Halesowen-based theatre group at its next show.

Mayhem Theatre Group will perform well-known episodes of the hit 1970s series, which featured John Cleese, at Quarry Bank's Hardwicke Theatre.

The group uses Thorns Community College and the show will run from April 30 until May 3. Tickets cost £7 and are available by calling 0121 559 6549 or by visiting the Spex Maniax store, in Hagley Road, Halesowen. Stepping into John Cleese's shoes as Basil will be David Williams, from Stourbridge, and group spokesman Mark Moran said his take on the lead on the lead role was 'uncanny'.

He added: "Fawlty Towers is an iconic show. Performing episodes on a single stage is a challenge. However, we are very proud of the production and I think it is the biggest and best the group has ever done.

"We are keeping the episodes we are performing a secret so there will be an element of surprise for audiences."

Police officers injured in crash

TWO police officers were injured when a suspected drink-driver ploughed into their police car in Dudley.

They were on patrol in their vehicle at the junction of Smithy Lane and Tansey Green Road at around 2.40am on Saturday when a Volkswagen Golf mounted the pavement before smashing into them.

The driver of the police car managed to get out of his car – despite suffering a minor injury – and detained a 44-year-old man on suspicion of drink-driving.

Both officers were taken to hospital.

Chief Inspector Jack Hadley, force incident manager, said: "Both officers were extremely lucky not to suffer more serious injuries.

"They were on a routine patrol when the collision happened.

"The driver of the other car had lost control of his vehicle and the end result could have been far worse."

"I want to remind everyone to think carefully before getting behind the wheel this weekend – there is absolutely no excuse for driving while drunk."

Baking for St George's Day

THE programme of event for St George's Day celebrations in Brierly Hill on Saturday have been finalised.

Activities will start with a civic opening at 10.30am led by Dudley's mayor Councillor Alan Finch. Maggie O'Hara will then perform a patriotic sing-a-long.

Performers will include the Sedgley Morris Men, Brierley Hill Musical Theatre, Black Country Gaz and the Kingswinford Air Training Corps Band. There will be the Great Brierley Hill Bake-Off and Brierley Hill Library will be running a colouring competition.

Delivering design

YOUNGSTERS are being the chance to submit designs to be used on the sides of a supermarket chain's delivery vans.

Every time a Tesco driver delivers to a family with children under-12 they will be given an opportunity to design the side of the van which has just delivered to them. Branches in Dudley, Walsall and West Bromwich will be taking part.

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Arsonist attack damages scrapyard

ARSONISTS destroyed cars at a Coseley scrapyard, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Seven cars were burned out at the business of TCL Ford, together with a van and an operational recovery truck owned by the company.

Firefighters were called to the blaze at the business on Webb Street, Coseley, at around 2.50am on Tuesday and spent nearly two hours tackling the flames.

Managing director Lee Evans said the arsonists had caused around £10,000 worth of damage, although he said the recovery truck was repairable.

He said: "It's just mindless thuggery, not to mention putting people's lives in danger.

He added: "We are a business like everybody else and it's people's livelihoods they are playing with."

The attack comes after a fly-tipper dumped around 500 tyres outside the scrapyard's gates on Thursday night, according to Mr Evans.

Crews from Dudley, Tipton and Bilston. tackled the blaze.

The Environment Agency was alerted because of water run-off

Store plan set for approval

A FORMER shop and office in Enville Road, Wall Heath, is set to be turned into a convenience store after plans were recommended for approval.

The site is vacant and proposals for the change of use have been submitted to Dudley Council. As part of the scheme, the front of the shop would also be replaced to incorporate a roller shutter. More than 40 nearby premises have been notified and no objections have been received.

The proposal was due to be discussed by Dudley Council's development control committee this week.

Circus rolls in

THE circus has rollied into town. The Big Top will be at Webbs Garden Centre in Kidderminster Road South, West Hagley, until Sunday. It is returning, after sell-out visits last year, with a new show. There will be at 11am, 2pm and 4pm. Tickets are £5 per person.

Six years prison for Black Country pub raider

Pub raider — Trevor Hollis

A BURGLAR who broke into pubs across the Black Country, stealing money from pool tables, gambling machines, jukeboxes and charity tins, has been jailed for six years.

Trevor Hollis targeted seven pubs in Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Coseley in less than two weeks, at night or in the early hours of the morning. In some cases the landlords or licensees were on the premises.

Hollis, aged 32, of Cheshire Street, Market Drayton, was arrested at the New Wellington pub, Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill on November 14, 2013. The landlord had been in bed in a flat above and was woken by a loud bang, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Police arrived to find Hollis hiding behind the bar. When they ordered him to stand up a 'large amount' of cash fell out of his pockets. He had also caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

He also targeted the King William in Dudley, Samson & Lion in Stourbridge, Malt Shovel in Dudley, Bramford Arms in Dudley, and The Starving Rascal, in Stourbridge.

He previously pleaded guilty to the six burglaries and to raiding the pub area of the Painters Arms in Coseley with an accomplice, stealing £100. He denied a separate charge of burgling the upstairs private area of the Painters Arms but a jury found him guilty of that offence. At the Starving Rascal he left behind a cigarette end, which enabled police to trace him through DNA testing.

The court heard he had a string of burglaries on his record, as well as drug offences, dating back to 1998.

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, asked for leniency, saying: "For the overwhelming majority of these offences he did plead guilty."

Judge Martin Walsh said: "Licensees of public houses are in a vulnerable position because they can be attractive for burglars." Hollis was sentenced to six years imprisonment and ordered to pay £120 victim surcharge.

300 residents raise fears over speeding hotspot

MORE than 300 people have responded to a survey carried out as part of a campaign to tackle speeding drivers on a busy road.

Concerns have been raised following a number of crashes and 'near misses' on The Northway in Sedgley by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

He said cars are regularly breaking the speed limit and lorries have been seen thundering down the road.

As part of his calls for action, he carried out a survey of homes and more than three quarters of the 300 plus responses said speeding was a serious problem.

Many of the residents said they had witnessed an accident or knew someone who had been involved in one.

Mr Austin said two thirds of people who responded said they wanted traffic-calming measures to tackle the issue, with 35 per cent backing speed-limit signs and 30 per cent calling for speed bumps.

Heavy

The results also showed more than half believed a pedestrian crossing would reduce accidents, while more than 75 per cent said they would support a weight limit on the Northway to stop heavy vehicles thundering down the road.

"Northway residents have told me that speeding on the road is so bad that near misses happen weekly and accidents are becoming more common," said Mr Austin. "I'm now taking local residents' views to local councillors and Dudley Council."

In response, Dudley Council's transport chief Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, said: "We have implemented a number of safety measures on the Northway in recent years. We will ask our police colleagues to consider further enforcement."

Security up after college vandalism

COLLEGE bosses are stepping up security with support from police following a spate of vandalism at a disused site in Stourbridge.

Arsonist started two fires at the former Longlands School, Brook Street, last Friday.

It was the latest andal attacks at the school, which is now owned by Birmingham Metropolitan College.

Executive director of estates John Starmer said: "We have experienced spates of vandalism at the Longlands site as it can be accessed through several different entry points.

"We take our duty of care very seriously and are putting additional mobile security patrols into the schedule in an effort to combat the problems we've experienced. We have also contacted local police to enlist further support whilst we endeavour to find a buyer for the site."

The school opened in 1912 but closed in the1990s. Stourbridge College brought it back to use but it shut for good three years ago when a £12m creative arts complex in Brierley Hill opened.

Albion stars visit 106-year-old fan

Albion players James Morrison and Liam O'Neil visit lifelong Baggies fan Jack Jones at Tudor Manor Care Home

ALBION stars James Morrison and Liam O'Neil dropped in to visit a lifelong Baggies fan to congratulate him on his 106th birthday.

The duo popped in to Tudor Manor Care Home, Brook Street, Stourbridge, to visit Jack Jones, after seeing pupils at Redhill School in the town earlier in the day.

It was the fourth birthday celebration for Mr Jones for his milestone — Banks's Brewery sent him some beer before his big day, he had a celebration at the care home, a trip to his favourite pub The Greyhound on Norton Road, and then the chance to meet some of the players from the team he has supported since childhood.

Mr Jones went to see his first game aged 12, when he cycled from Churchill village near Blakedown to The Hawthorns at West Bromwich. En route his friend's bicycle chain broke so Mr Jones tied their two bikes together so he could tow his friend along, before they had to barter for a new chain so they could get home afterwards.

After holding a season ticket in the Smethwick End for many of the years he has supported the club, Mr Jones said it was a 'delight' to meet the players.

Mr Jones, born in Enville in 1908 just 30 years after the club was founded, said: "I never expected to have a birthday like this. It's been marvellous." Midfielder Morrison added: "It was a real pleasure and honour to meet Jack."

NEWS in brief

Residents urged to give feedback

RESIDENTS are being urged to have their say on the future of Dudley town centre.

Regeneration projects are planned to boost Dudley with the aim of increasing tourism and bringing shoppers to the high street. On the table are plans to build a supermarket, develop a car park and connect the town's attractions.

Get questionnaires from Dudley Council Plus,Dudley Library and Dudley Museum. Or visit Visit www.dudley.gov.uk online.

Living it Arg at Merry Hill visit

REALITY TV star James 'Arg' Argent has been meeting fans at Merry Hill Shopping Centre to promote his autobiography.

The 26-year-oldOnly Way Is Essex (Towie) star reveals behind-the-scenes secrets of the show in Living it Arg. He said: "This looks into my life before the show. In it I talk about being bullied at school."

During the visit he talked about the 12th series tand dropped hints about his on-off romance with Lydia Bright.

Tenants meet to discuss high life

TENANTS who live in high rise properties are invited to discuss issues at a dedicated meeting.

Dudley Council host the session on Tuesday, April 29, at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

The meeting is open to any tenant or leaseholder living in one of Dudley Council's high rise blocks Anyone wishing to attend should call (01384) 815168.

20mph speed limit planned for school

A 20mph speed limit is set to be introduced outside a Dudley primary school.

Dudley Council wants to cut the speed of cars travelling past Bramford Primary School. Councillors, parents and residents have all been consulted on the Safer Routes to School scheme. No objections were received and two residents registered support.

Golfers pitch in

GENEROUS golfers have helped raise more than £4,000 for children's charity Barnardo's. Members of Hagley Golf and Country Club held fundraising events in aid of helps vulnerable youngsters.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ONE report this week shows Britain has fewer hospital beds than most European countries. Another report reveals that one patient in 16 picks up an infection in hospital. So even if we had more NHS beds, who'd want to stay in them?

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IT IS claimed that the number of food parcels given away by food banks is rising towards one million. They have grown under the Coalition, just as they did under the last Labour government. They will continue to grow under whichever party forms the next government. Food banks are part of the 21st century political landscape and it is almost impossible to question their motives or their value without sounding hard-hearted. For the Tories, the only credible and acceptable response to food banks is to embrace them as part of the Big Society, to acknowledge that no welfare system will ever be 100 per cent efficient and to congratulate people who give their time and gifts to help those who slip through the welfare net. As long as cash and food donations are given to food banks freely by individuals and companies, no-one should object. And if Labour politicians are daft enough to brandish the rise of food banks as a club to whack the Tories, what will they be saying in 2020 when Labour has been in power for five years and the food banks are just about to hand over their two millionth parcel?

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THE Daily Mirror used a poignant front-page picture of a sobbing child to illustrate the desperation of families using food banks. It now emerges that the picture was taken years ago. The child is an American kid, the daughter of a photographer, who had been upset by losing an earthworm. There was absolutely no connection between this anguished child and food banks. Does it matter? I hope not. Newspapers and magazines tend to use generic, unidentified images when it would be wrong to identify an individual. I once worked on a paper whose photo library included an image of an old lady reading by the light of a candle. We used that image time after time to illustrate features on everything from loneliness in old age to burglary, adult literacy, dementia and power cuts.

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A FRIEND'S car wouldn't start. We left it a while and tried again, with the accelerator fully depressed. It started first time. Conclusion: the engine was flooded. Later, the car wouldn't start again. We removed the filler cap. It started first time. Conclusion: it was starved of petrol by a vacuum in the fuel tank. A few hours later the car broke down and even the AA couldn't fix it. Conclusion: It's a car. Cars have minds of their own. Especially if there's a bank holiday coming.

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THIS week's Marine Conservation Society report goes into ecstasies about the superb water quality at hundreds of British beaches. But those measurements were taken last year during an unusually long dry spell. After this winter's deluge, with rivers raging, cesspits overflowing and half of Somerset knee-deep in liquid sewage for weeks on end, anyone care for a paddle?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

TAKE a look around at your fellow Brits as the holiday season begins and the flesh goes on display. Do we look like a nation following healthy-eating advice? Or do we look more like a collection of beached whales, occasionally dragging ourselves to the hot-dog stand for another cholesterol fix? If you believe research published yesterday, a drop in the number of heart attacks and strokes is linked to a 15 per cent reduction in the amount of salt Brits consume. But isn't it far more likely to be the result of a massive NHS programme? Over the past 20 years millions of Brits have been diagnosed with high blood pressure by their GPs and given pressure-reducing pills. I bet that's having far more effect than any alleged change of diet. For the time being, I will take the salt connection with a pinch of, er, pepper.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Chapel to become a wedding venue

A DERELICT former chapel in Lye is to become a wedding venue after planning chiefs said yes to the proposal.

The grade II-listed building is to be restored and will house a registry office for civil ceremonies after the redundant 19th century property was sold to building preservation charity The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust.

The joint Lye and Wollescote Chapel on Cemetery Road , Lye, is to become the second registration office in the borough after Dudley Council announced its sale to the not-for-profit organisation.

Leased

The trust plans to use a £1 million Heritage lottery fund to refurbish the site. A rare surviving example of a cemetery chapel, it has not been in use since 1993 but is anticipated to be open by April 2015 after a sympathetic revamp.

It is planned that the historic building will eventually be leased back to Dudley Council for use as a registration office for marriages, citizenship ceremonies, naming ceremonies, civil partnership ceremonies and for wedding vow renewals.

Duncan Lowndes, Dudley's assistant director of culture and leisure, said:"I am delighted that we have found a way to bring this beautiful landmark building back into public use at little cost to the public purse." Bob Tolley, chairman of the buildings trust, added:"We will not just preserve but conserve this amazing building and put it to a sustainable new use."

Zoo unveils new look to greet Easter visitors

Report by Lee Watton

AN ICONIC building dating back to the 1930s has been restored to its former glory and is now preparing to welcome thousands of visitors to Dudley Zoo.

Work has been completed at the Safari Shop, one of the attraction's historic Tecton structures, and it was opened last week for the busy Easter period.

The building, originally the Station Cafe, provides a new entrance to the zoo offering direct access from the extended car park. Visitors walk up a ramp and enter the restored building through a set of glass doors. Past the ticket tills, the building opens into a shop. There will also be a display area giving a history of the Tecton buildings to be installed next month.

Pavilion

When constructed in 1937, the building was originally an open pavilion which was partially exposed to the elements.

It has now been fully enclosed but with glass covering the open sections of the roof so there is still the same level of light and it retains the look of the original building.

Bosses at the zoo, in Castle Hill, have also restored the red and blue colour scheme used inside the pavilion when it first opened. They have installed pillars which were a part of the original design. These have been created out of fibreglass to restore the look of the pavilion.

Replicas of the large letters spelling out the word 'zoo' on the main 'wave' entrance on Castle Hill have been created and placed within the new entrance. These also serve as shelves where goods can be placed. A wave design, again harking back to the famous entrance, has been placed on glass windows and doors.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "We are expecting a lot of visitors so we could not run the risk of opening on Good Friday and finding there was a problem. It has gone very well and we are very proud of the result."

Dudley Zoo Chief Executive Peter Suddock in the spacious new ticket and gift shop at the Castle Hill attraction

Dudley Zoo's iconic 'wave' entrance has been spruced up and will continue to welcome visitors

Members gear up for classic car show

DOZENS of car enthusiasts are expected to turn out for a meeting of The New Unnamed Classic Car Group, who are fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The group was created last year and is the brain child of Ian Macaulay, who created the organisation after growing frustrated with more formal clubs.

Hobby

He said: "I had been a member of a number of different groups, but I kept getting annoyed at the politics of them all, so I decided to start my own informal group that was more about the hobby of owning a classic car and so far it's proven really popular with people."

Their first event of the year on Sunday at The Old Waggon and Horses pub on the A451 Stourbridge Road, between Kidderminster and Stourbridge, will start at noon and feature a raffle and family fun day.

"Our decision to raise money for the trust came from one of our members who has a niece who was diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatment," said Mr Macaulay from Brierley Hill.

For further information contact Ian Macaulay on 07732 054569.

TV licence concession

HUNDREDS of blind people and their families are being reminded to claim a 50 per cent discount on their TV licence.

Last year 70 blind concessionary licences were issued in Dudley and 40 in Stourbridge. Live-in carers and family could also benefit. A blind concession TV Licence costs £72.75 for colour and £24.50 for black and white.

Anyone who lives with someone severely sight-impaired and has a full fee licence in their name, can transfer to the person severely sight-impaired. Contact 0300 790 0366.

Suspect jailed

A SUSPECT from the West Midlands has been jailed for 15 months after breaching terror prevention measures.

The man, who can only be identified as 'FF', admitted at the Old Bailey attending an unauthorised meeting and using a computer without prior permission.

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PLANITHERM

Spy in the shed move to catch criminals

HOUSEHOLD gadgets are being used to fight crime by police in a blitz on burglars.

Lawnmowers, hedge trimmers and power cleaners have been fitted with tiny cameras and satellite data trackers to be tracked and help catch criminals.

The force already use so called 'capture' houses and cars packed with the technology in a bid to trick burglars.

But now officers are tooling up the ordinary garden shed with this equipment too in a bid to tackle shed raiders.

The kit, which uses tiny CCTV cameras and satellite data to track stolen goods, was unveiled to shoppers at Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre.

Detective Sergeant Matt Morgan, from Dudley's CID, said: "We have been using capture technology across the borough since 2012 and have had numerous successes in identifying and tracking down offenders.

"We're now seeing record lows in burglary across Dudley with such crimes being driven down from highs of 2,371 in 2002/13 to 837 in 2013/14.

"We know that capture technology is one of the things criminals fear most."

Dexy's date to warm up

AHEAD of their anticipated appearance at Glastonbury, the Black Country's own Dexy's will be playing one date in the Midlands.

Formerly Dexy's Midnight Runners, the band will return to their home region to play the Coventry Kasbah on June 25 with a revamped version of their One Day I'm Going to Soar show, plus a few old favourites.

Best known for hits Geno and Come On Eileen, Dexy's Midnight Runners was founded in 1978 by Wolverhampton-born Kevin Rowland, who was living in Oldbury, and Kevin 'Al' Archer from Cradley Heath.

Hill walk invite

WALKERS are being invited to join a nine-mile walk taking in scenic views.

Sandwell Ramblers have organised a trip to the Clent Hills on Sunday, meeting at the car park on Sandwell Road, West Bromwich, at 9am. For details call Chris Humphries 07813 829 885.

Serial burglar jailed thanks to quick 999 call

Christopher Burchell

HE was caught red-handed ransacking a house by police after they were tipped off by a neighbour.

Smash-and-grab thief Christopher Burchell had broken a window as he forced his way into the house in Netherton, alerting a resident who rang 999.

Officers circled the property while the 43-year-old was rummaging through the rooms.

Now the the burglar has been jailed for four years at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Police welcomed the sentence saying Burchell, of no fixed address, had caused 'misery' for families whose homes he burgled in the Black Country and Birmingham.

Pensioner

He pleaded guilty to the burglary in Halton Street, Netherton, in February as well as two more in Chelmsley Wood, and at the home of a pensioner in Castle Vale.

He asked for six other break-ins – five in Chelmsley Wood and the other in Tile Cross – to be taken into consideration.

Detective Constable Craig Brewer from Solihull Police praised the speed of the 999 call that helped trap Burchell.

He added: "That quick call meant we could get officers to the scene in minutes and catch Burchell in the act."

Burchell in one of the raids last year plunged a burglar alarm into a sink full of water in a bid to silence it.

He also admitted Chelmsley Wood burglaries in Crabtree Drive on May 8, Lambeth Close on 15 October – where £600 cash and Euros were stolen – Glovers Croft on 21 December, Brook Farm Walk between 14-27 December, and Holly Lodge Walk on 17 January this year.

On January 13 he prised a panel out of a door in Shirestone Road, Tile Cross, before rummaging through the house in his search for valuables.

Plan to ban drunken yobs from all pubs in the area

A PUB watch scheme aimed at combating booze-fuel crime has been launched by police in in Kingswinford and Wordsley.

Licensees and managers of bars and pubs will be on the lookout for troublemakers and will be in regular contact with the police. They will be able to warn each other about potential problems caused by rowdy revellers making their way around the nightspots in the town.

They are joining Dudley Council, the police and the business crime partnership to tackle abusive customers. Members will be able to decide whether to ban troublemakers from all of their pubs. It follows similar schemes in Stourbridge and Dudley town centres.

Radio

The landlords are trialling a radio system where they can instantly warn other members about hostile customers.

John Polychronakis, chief executive of Dudley Council and chairman of local crime and disorder partnership Safe & Sound, said: "Everyone should be allowed to socialise in peace and we fully support any business in the borough which aims to reduce anti-social behaviour.

"Pub landlords will be looking out for unacceptable behaviour. This could be assaults, thefts or drug related. People who commit these offences will then be banned from all of the members of the PubWatch.

"I hope that this sends out a strong message to troublemakers that disorder will not be tolerated."

Licensing officer for Dudley police, Katie Turley, said: "Whilst Kingswinford and Wordsley does not suffer from excessive numbers of alcohol-related incidents, we are determined to ensure that the numbers of crimes remain low."

Food bank figures reveal crisis, says MP

AN MP has called for urgent action after new figures reveal a record 93,461 people used West Midlands food banks in the last year, including 35,425 children.

The figures have been released by the Trussell Trust which runs 400 food banks across the UK including 85 in the West Midlands.

They show more than 900,000 people in Britain have used food banks in the past year. The Trussell Trust reports that many users are in work, with wages no longer guaranteed to be enough to feed a family.

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin has called on the Government to do more to support families that are struggling. He said:"Food banks like the one here in Dudley and the Black Country do phenomenal work but this increase just goes to show our out-of-touch Government hasn't got a clue how difficult life is for people.

"They' have to face the truth – thousands of families in the West Midlands face a cost of living crisis."

Charity shop celebrates 25th anniversary

Eileen Manning pictured in the middle with other volunteers and staff at the British Heart Foundation shop

A CHARITY shop is celebrating a milestone anniversary by rewarding volunteers who have made it possible.

The British Heart Foundation opened its store on Stourbridge High Street 25 years ago and has celebrated by recognising the dedication of its team of long serving volunteers.

The shop opened on April 21, 1989, and was one of the first stores to be opened by the charity which was set up in 1961 and now has more than 700 stores nationwide.

To mark the quarter of a century birthday, store manager Angela Harrison organised a party for the volunteers where they received an award in recognition of their hard work.

Store manager Angela Harrison, who has worked at the shop for eight years, said: "We have a party each year for our volunteers but this one is a very special milestone."

Top of the list of awards was Eileen Manning, 76, who started at the shop on the day it opened.

Mrs Manning from Pedmore, was awarded for her 25 years service and said the charity means a great deal to her, after her husband suffered a heart attack.

She said: "My husband had a heart attack and a year later had a quadruple bypass and he is still here today.

"The charity is very close to my heart so I volunteer every Monday.

"I do a bit of everything, sorting through donations and hanging and steaming clothes."

NEWS in brief

Sponsors needed for Beacon match

A CHARITY for the blind is calling on businesses to sponsor a football match to raise money for the visually-impaired.

Sedgley-based charity Beacon Centre for the Blind will pitch its team oagainst the Aston Villa Old Stars at 1.30pm on May 18 at Hednesford Town Football Club. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £2 children and £12 for a family ticket. They can be bought Beacon Centre's Sedgley HQ. To be a sponsor, call 01902 880 111.

Laugh yourself happy at park

PEOPLE can have a giggle and a guffaw at an outdoor yoga event aimed at relieving stress.

The laughter yoga session will be held in Mary Stevens Park, in Stourbridge, on May 4. Instructor Maggie Thompson, known as Merrie Maggie, is organising the event for World Laughter Day.

The free sessions take place at the park between 11am and noon and 2pm to 3pm. Call Maggie on 07565 218567 or visit www.merriemaggie.co.uk

Police have new boss of finance

THE Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands has announced the new chair of a committee which oversees the finances of the police force.

Susan Davis CBE is new chair of the joint audit committee for the commissioners office and also for the Chief Constable. The committee is responsible for financial governance, risk management and statutory financial duties.

Councillor takes on role at centre

A COUNCILLOR standing down after more than a decade will continue serving the community

Councillor Jill Nicholls has announced she will not be standing for the Belle Vale seat on Dudley Council in next month's elections. She was first elected in 2003. She has a new role at the Retired Citizens Centre in Halesowen.

Building project

PLANS to demolish a property to replace it with three homes have been lodged with South Staffs Council.

The development has been earmarked for Greenhill in Wombourne.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

SO after years of being told to cut down on our drinking, at last there's an expert who has come up with some advice we can all raise a glass to.

Dr Kari Poiklainen, who used to work for the World Health Organisation now says its okay to drink six pints a day.

Or if beer's not your bag, a full bottle of wine is all right too.

He says 'moderate' drinking is better for your health than abstinence, which in itself is probably not that controversial. But it is his definition of moderation which might raise one or two eyebrows.

Apparently, Dr Poiklainen – try saying that after six pints of Banks's – reckons anything up to 13 units a day should be ok.

To put that into context, the Government's recommended limit is 14 units a week for women, and 21 for men. Or in the traditionally po-faced US, it's 14 units a week full stop. In fact, you may remember a while back they tried stopping anybody from drinking anything at all, and that worked out, didn't it?

Still, Dr Poiklainen has been researching the effects of alcohol for years, something I have no difficulty in believing.

And you have to say, the prospect of joining for a spot of his 'research' does sound rather good fun, doesn't it? You know, ask him nicely, and he might take you on a tour of some of his favourite labs.

Predictably, the anti-drinking establishment has been unimpressed by the Finnish experts' work, with Julia Manning of the think-tank 2020Health, describing his claims as 'an unhelpful contribution to the debate.'

Now I tend to be deeply sceptical of anyone who thinks that jumbling up letters and numerals, with no gap in between, is the hallmark of a modern, progressive organisation.

And I really would like to believe Dr Poiklainen, who of course has a book to sell, but on this occasion I fear Mrs Manning might be right.

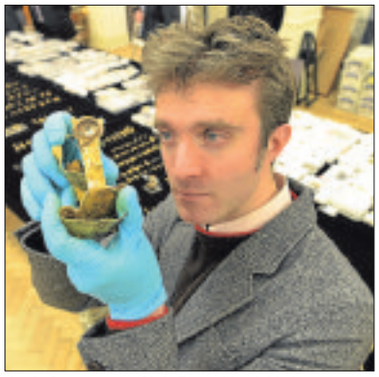
My first reaction on reading about Dr Poiklainen's work was that I wished he was my doctor. I mean, who wouldn't want to be told it's ok to live every day like closing-time at Oktoberfest?

But having thought about it again, perhaps not.

No doubt, Dr Poiklainen is a very well respected, educated man. I'm sure he has got lots of letters after his name – come to mention it, he's got a fair few letters in his name, hasn't he?

But when push comes to shove, I'm not sure he's the type of man I would want to be brandishing the scalpel during a delicate piece of surgery.

Not after he's been on a 'moderate' drinking session, anyway.



Anglo Saxon expert Chris Fern with a folded great cross

Curator David Symons looks at a discovered item

The complete Staffordshire hoard on show for the first time

Haul together to clear up mystery

A fascinating discovery of ancient treasure has taken on another new twist, as Dave Ballinger reports

SOME of the mysteries of the Staffordshire Hoard – unearthed in a farmer's field in Hammerwich – have taken a new twist.

The incredible find, the biggest of its kind, has begun to rewrite the history books.

The entire, fully cleaned hoard has been photographed in one place for the first time since its discovery in 2009.

For two weeks the entire 4,000 piece collection has been brought together so experts could start a major exercise to group items and make links between each fragment like an ancient jigsaw puzzle.

The staggering findings shine fresh light into the depths of what are known as the Dark Ages.

Hundreds of connections have been found, revealing at least one helmet made up of more than 1,500 fragments.

Warrior

The research has also confirmed there are up to 150 swords, which represents an extraordinary haul of warrior kit.

It has also revealed for the first time the true extent of gold wealth across the kingdoms – much greater than ever envisaged before.

Anglo-Saxon specialist Chris Fern has spent 18 months examining each item in the collection individually. But to complete his analysis it became clear all the items would have to be brought together. So they were all packed up and in total secrecy experts carried out the work over two weeks in the depths of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Mr Fern said: "The hoard is a very complex find which points to multiple origins and is very significant for understanding the true material culture of the early kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England.

Conservation manager Pieta Greaves examines some of the artefacts

"It suggests that the warrior elites shared in the sort of gold wealth enjoyed by kings and royalty."

Mr Fern said items in the hoard were shown to have origins from three kingdoms: Mercia, East Anglia and Northumbria.

The items span up to 150 years over the turn of the 6th and 7th centuries made up of 11lbs (5kg) of gold, 3lbs (1.3kg) of silver, plus garnet and Roman glass. It has a value in excess of £3 million.

Now the three-year conservation and clean-up is complete, the full extent of decoration, quality, iconography and workmanship has been appreciated.

Among the collection are more than 80 pommel caps – the decorative tip of the sword – where previously only 20 had been discovered in England.

David Symons, curator at Birmingham Museum, said: "We had no idea of the level of wealth. It now appears it was beyond kings and top royalty. More people are sharing in this. It also includes the top generals and high officials.

"It has also helped us understand the technology and techniques used. The hoard makes up something like 60 per cent of all Anglo-Saxon filigree discovered. This is unique. It is mind-boggling."

It is already believed some of the garnet discovered could have come from India and Sri Lanka.

There is also a gold pectoral cross with a central garnet gem that would have been worn by senior clergy as a sign of their office or by wealthy Christian lay people.

And there is the stylised seahorse mount with filigree spirals the size of a grain of rice which now experts believe may actually be just a horse.

Thumb

Pieta Greaves, hoard conservation manager, said: "Overall I like the pieces where you can see the human element, such as the wear on the pommel caps where you would have put your thumb."

The hoard was discovered by detectorist Terry Herbert in farmer Fred Johnson's field on July 5 2009.

It made them millionaires overnight when Birmingham Museums Trust and The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent acquired it in 2010 with support from the Arts Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the UK's largest public donation.

In 2012 a further 81 items were found in the same field. Dating of the hoard places it at the time of the huge tribal Kingdom of Mercia.

Since the discovery the treasures have toured the region and more than a million people have visited.

Mr Symons said: "It has been an incredible strength of the project that it has been out on show. We are still part way through the story and have a lot of thinking to do."

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

CRISIS? What crisis? Apparently Ed Miliband's cost-of-living crisis is over, if it ever existed at all.

That's the argument advanced by the Chancellor and Tory MPs as they claim 'compelling evidence' that the economic strategy is working.

Wages are growing faster than inflation, unemployment is down and house sales (not to mention prices) are up. So why the growth in food bank use then?

People who want to claim politicians are all just the same might want to look a bit more closely.

As Parliament went into recess, MPs were suggesting a very different picture of Britain's progress.

Gavin Williamson, the always friendly and cheerful MP for South Staffordshire, says 83,000 more people are in work since the Tories didn't quite come to power.

"That means 83,000 more hard-working people bringing home a regular pay packet, giving them and their family more financial security for the future," he said.

Labour has a very different view of the 'secure future' we are embarking on.

Dudley MP Ian Austin says a record 93,461 people used West Midlands food banks in the last year, including 35,425 children. He suggests 'thousands of families in the West Midlands face a cost- of-living crisis and the benefits system is in chaos'.

Those figures are from the Trussell Trust charity. And the Government thinks they might be making a rod for their own back.

An unnamed spokesman for the Department for Work and Pensions said: "Even the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says there are fewer people struggling with their food bills compared with a few years ago, benefit processing times are improving and the Trussell Trust's own research recognises the effect their marketing activity has on the growth of their business."

It comes down to your point of view. Fewer people struggle with food bills, but food bank use has grown.

❐❐❐❐❐

Wolverhampton MP Pat McFadden made some remarks in a broadcast interview this week that he wants a Labour party that 'takes wealth creation every bit as seriously as its fair distribution'. The remarks were seized upon by some of the national papers as a sign that he did not think his party leadership had a workable economic plan.

In fact the Blairite MP for Wolverhampton South East's views on this are well known. What were not picked up were his concerns over the prospect of Britain leaving the European Union. He calls the possibility the 'biggest economic threat facing the country'.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Let's get rid of our tunnel vision

I live adjacent to the Black Country, which went from agriculture to industry in the Industrial Revolution. The whole of England was able to put in a system of railways and canals without a huge amount of inconvenience because the population and development was limited.

With a rather hazy cracked crystal ball we messed the system up by chopping or getting rid of these arteries. The replacement road arteries are now blocked or partly choked.

Can we renovate and review the whole railway system instead of building one segment which will save the world by reducing one train journey by really a few minutes?

The cost really is untold billions of pounds. We seem to be unable to get the full impact of our actions. At home we neglect basic systems,.

I saw people crammed into overcrowded trains as doors were shutting. We are moving towards employing staff to shove passengers into carriages! Step back from the Alice in Wonderland hole and cure the powers that be of tunnel vision! It is not too late.

R SLIM, Halesowen

No muzzles and no muck

I AGREED with the letter writer that no dog should be muzzled unless the law demands it by its breed, or the owner knows that the dog cannot be trusted. Muzzling does cause distress.

The dog needs to be let off its lead to have a good run and exercise, then the writer totally let themselves down. It is illegal to allow dogs to foul any public place and not clean it up.

He/she says the first fall of rain will wash it away? The rain will make it stick to the pavement or grass even more, Do they allow their garden to become covered in dog mess?

If this person really does believe that allowing the dog to mess and not cleaning it up is doing the tax payer a service, they need to think again.

He/she is doing the real dog lover a real disservice.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

Thank you for help in pet search

THE other Sunday morning my neighbour and I were walking our dogs on Highgate Common when quite suddenly Penny, one of mine, disappeared.

She is 16 years old and deaf so I was of course distraught. The story has a happy ending as Penny was found safe and well.

However, I am writing to thank all those who helped us in our search. In particular the couple who put her safely on a lead and walked the common looking for us and the gentleman from Wombourne who chauffeured me from car park to car park and numerous other people who helped and showed such concern. I am so grateful to them all.

Truly, there are some very kind people out there especially, dare I say it, among dog owners.

My special thanks also to my good friend and neighbour for all that she did that morning. It did not surprise me because I know I am blessed with neighbours from heaven.

S WILLIAMS
Sedgley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Hippodrome just like a derelict car heading for scrap

THERE is in Tipton a man who many years ago acquired a top of the range Mercedes.

It was of world class and he had many happy memories of times he enjoyed in the car but it became too expensive to maintain and run and more modern vehicles had much more to offer.

It was left on the drive and became decrepit and derelict, in fact an eyesore, a shed.

One day someone offered to take it away as scrap and improve the appearance of the place.

At this point the owner, who had ignored it for years, remembered the good times he had had and decided it should be restored.

No amount of reasoned argument could persuade him of the impossibility of such a project, where the cost could never be recovered through added value and he was prone to missing the noughts off estimates.

Everyone knew that even if it was restored it would only be used for a short while before maintenance costs and performance led to it being left on the drive and becoming an eyesore and a shed.

For Mercedes, read Dudley Hippodrome.

B OSBORNE
Dudley

You must clean it up

WHILE agree with the issue of muzzling dogs in public, I absolutely do not agree on the views about cleaning up after our dogs, that kind of attitude gives dog owners a bad name.

I walk my greyhound every day and always clean up after her. I even carry extra bags so if I see someone who has either forgotten theirs, or like S McDermott, can't be bothered, I offer them one. Dog mess doesn't 'wash away the first time it rains'. Perhaps S McDermott would like to offer their garden as a dog toilet .

A LLEWELLYN
Dudley

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Members given blind centre tour

TRYSULL & SEISDON

PRESIDENT Sue Cotterell welcomed members and visitors to the April meeting.

Linda Jackson was congratulated on coming first in the Floral Art competition at SFWI show at Lichfield.

Those that visited the Beacon Centre for the Blind had a very informative and enjoyable time.

Peter Moodie gave a tour and and there was the chance to see the various crafts and activities that are available for people who are blind or partially sighted.

Peter demonstrated some of the aids that can help give them more confidence and independence. There is a hair salon, coffee shop and a café, all of which are open to the public.

Speaker was Peter Hawthorne who has written a book about the Dickin medal, the animal Victoria Cross. It was established in 1943 by Maria Dickin, the founder of the PDSA and to date 63 animals have won it.

These include Rip who was found by an ARP warden, cowering in an air-raid shelter in East London during the Blitz. One of several pigeons to win the award during the war was Winkie, who was on board a Beaufort bomber which was badly damaged and plunged into the North Sea.

Other winners include Roselle a guide dog for the blind who led her master and other people to safety after the September 2011 attacks and Simon a cat who was aboard HMS Amethyst when it was held hostage in 1949 on the Yangtze River.

Cheque is handed over to MS Centre

Christine Husbands collects the cheque from SI President Parkash

SI WOLVERHAMPTON

AT the February meeting of Wolverhampton Soroptimists President Parkash welcomed Regional President Edna Shafter Hughes who gave an interesting insight into her life, German connections and involvement in Soroptimist International.

In February, Parkash had visited the Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Newbridge to view the new extension and refurbishment of the building and learn of the new extra sessions they were hoping to be able to cater for, on demand.

In March following an enjoyable meal at the Lindens, President Parkash invited Christine Husbands of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre to receive a cheque for £1,200 to use at the centre to improve conditions and refurbishments. The money had been collected from a number of events during the year.

The club had lengthy discussions on the 'Format for the Future', in which many interesting points were raised.

Talk given on castle's history

MAX Keen was the speaker at the last meeting of the Kingswinford Branch held in St Mary's Church Hall.

Max is a local primary school teacher and gives many talks in the area, including the annual Bromsgrove Festival. He spoke about 'The History of Dudley Castle, 1071-1932'.

BLACK COUNTRY

He made a grand entrance in period costume and showed samples of chain mail, swords, protection helmets and shields and other artefacts.

He described the castle buildings for the very early days and in the 1530s the castle was only rivalled by Hampton Court. Over the years buildings were added and the grounds were scenes of spectacular events.

Max is an entertaining speaker and makes history come to life. His talk was very well received.

On May 21 Dr Chris Upton will be the speaker.

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Bullies jailed for brutal attack on vulnerable man

FOUR thugs who subjected a man with learning difficulties to a 'sustained, bullying and brutal' assault have been locked up.

The gang beat the 23-year-old in his own home in Dudley. He had believed some of them were his friends.

They stripped him to his underpants and submerging him in a bath. The victim also had two puncture wounds to his legs, believed to have been caused by a knife.

Each of the four were handed 42-month sentences at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Connor Green, aged 19

Stephen Loveridge, aged 20

Adam Dudley, aged 20

Benjamin Fields, aged 24

Wounding

Adam Dudley, aged 20 from Himley Road, Benjamin Fields, 24 from Wellington Road, and 19-year-old Connor Green, from Salop Street, allDudley, along with Stephen Loveridge, 20, of no fixed address, were all found guilty of unlawful wounding after a trial.

Sentencing them, Judge Martin Walsh said: "He was subjected to a sustained, bullying and brutal assault.

"He was stripped down to his underpants and submerged in his bath. He was beaten over a period of time."

Despite the beating, the injuries were not extensive with bruising to an eye and to his back, as well as the leg wounds.

But Judge Walsh added: "It's likely the incident lasted for between two to three hours. It's clear to me he had been terrified by the ordeal that had taken place."

Defending Fields, Mr Harry Lally said he had been 'high' on class A drugs at the time of the incident.

In Green's defence, barrister Miss Kate Thomas said he had been 'largely cast adrift' at the age of 16 after his mother had died.

Loveridge's barrister Mr Jasvir Mann said he had also been taking drugs that night. He added: "He's a young man who's had a fairly disorganised life, he's really had no goals in life, he's drifted from one situation to the other."

On behalf of Dudley, Mr Jason Patel said he had 'expressed motivation to change'.

He said: "He's soon to be 21 and will move to an adult establishment and he is apprehensive of that."

Afterwards, investigating officer Detective Constable Dan Bailey said the defendants deserved to be in custody, adding: "They are bullies at the end of the day."

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Figures showing that the plan for recovery is working

THE WAY I SEE IT

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'Every job created in Dudley means another family with greater economic security and the prospect of a brighter future'

RECORD breaking employment figures are further evidence that this Government's long-term economic plan is working as unemployment drops below 7 per cent for the first time since the recession.

First, the Government created the conditions for growth, and gave businesses the freedom and confidence to create jobs. Second, the Government drove a programme of welfare reform where every change was designed to get Britain back to work — giving people previously left to languish on benefits the skills and the incentive to secure employment and take home a payslip at the end of each month.

Economy

Labour's Great Recession slashed 7.2 per cent off the value of our economy and cost 750,000 people their jobs.

Following the crash we heard gloomy forecasts from Labour and the two Eds of a million jobs disappearing from the private sector, mass unemployment, lost generations... yet they could not have been more wrong.

There are now 1.5 million more people in work and unemployment is down 251,000 on the election. Employment has seen the biggest annual jump in a generation with an increase of 691,000 — more than double the population of Newcastle.

More young people are in work, more women are in work, wages are beginning to rise, and more and more businesses are hiring — and it's a credit to them that Britain is working again.

Every job created in Dudley and the Black Country means another family with greater economic security and the prospect of a brighter future.

These remain difficult times for families facing pressures on their budgets, and much work needs still to be done to build a resilient economy.

But this week's news supports the argument that the Prime Minister has made all along that the only way to see rising living standards is to grow the economy.

INFLATION fell again last month. These latest inflation numbers are welcome news for families in Dudley and the Black Country because they mean prices are stable. There is still much more we need to do to build a resilient economy with more exports, more building, more investment and more manufacturing too.

But lower inflation and rising job numbers show our long term plan is working, and is bringing more stability for our economy and more financial security for hardworking people.

THE Trussell Trust, a food bank provider, has released figures showing the number of people receiving food from food banks, including those in Dudley borough. Many families are facing tough times as a result of Labour's recession — the worst in a century.

The Government is spending £94 billion a year on working age benefits so that the welfare system provides a safety net to millions of people. The OECD say there are fewer people struggling with their food bills compared with a few years ago and the Trussell Trust's research recognises the effect their marketing activity has on the growth of their business.

The Government's long-term economic plan is creating jobs and the employment rate is the highest it's been for five years.

This is helping millions of people by promoting work and helping people to lift themselves out of poverty.

I'VE been out and about once again door knocking and speaking to local people.

I visited Cope Technology, a manufacturing company in Kingswinford employing 39 and celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The company is busy and looking to take on additional staff, providing further evidence of an improving outlook for a great many local firms.

I JOINED Natalie Neale, Conservative Council candidate for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, at a cake sale and tea party in Kingswinford to raise funds to enable tragic local teenager, Elle-Mae Davidson, to return to her home in Murdoch Drive from a rehabilitation centre in Surrey. Sadly Elle-Mae has suffered Arteriovenous Malformation, a rare condition causing brain damage.

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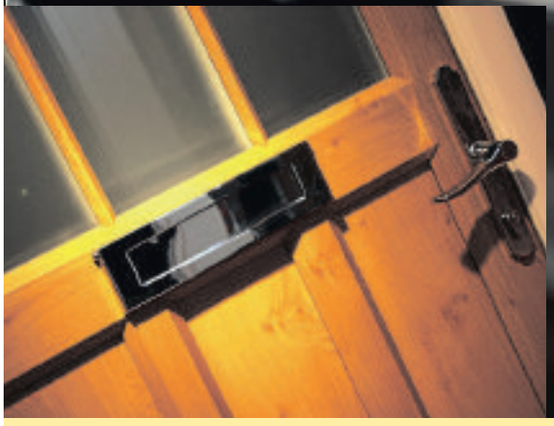

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Decision due on £2m bid to build animal hospital

A £2 million animal hospital has been recommended for approval at a meeting being held by councillors this week.

The plans come after an increase in demand for services by the PDSA at its current base in Hagley Road, Quinton.

The centre would be built on Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, if councillors backed the scheme at yesterday's meeting.

The charity has been raising money to fund the construction of the new hospital, which would have a spacious, two-storey waiting area, which has been designed to keep the area cool and well ventilated.

Free

The rest of the building would be single storey and have two operating theatres, a dental theatre and six consulting rooms as well as staff accommodation, on a site formerly owned by the council. Plans to build a new animal hospital in the borough have been in the pipeline since 2011.

A letter sent to Sandwell Council's planning department by Anthony Keith Architects Ltd on behalf of the charity said: "The PDSA is a charity which provides veterinary services free to those who cannot afford them and has a centre on Hagley Road, Quinton which is too small for their current needs. The staff from Hagley Road will be transferred to the new centre and additional staff taken on.

"The site has been chosen because it is located within the community it seeks to serve and is on a main public transport corridor thus making the site accessible by both private and public transport."

The letter goes on to say that around 30 full and part-time staff from the old centre would be kept on and there will be potential for the creation of more jobs in the future.

It would be open to the public from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays . It would also offer an out-of-hours emergency service. The charity provides free veterinary care for those who cannot afford vet fees.

Zombie apocalypse due

Walkers inspired by comedy horror movie Shaun of the Dead

THE streets of Birmingham will look the scene from a horror film when more than 2,000 people dress up as zombies for a march in aid of the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Thousands of fundraisers will once again dress up in ghoulish blood-spattered attire and put on pallid make up to look like the walking dead to scare up some funds.

The increasingly popular event, which is due to take part on September 13, is the brainchild of seasoned flash mob organiser Jamie Chapman, who this year won the Birmingham Inspire Young Fundraiser of the Year award.

"It's been awesome watching the Zombie Walk grow since it first started back in 2009, when less than 100 people turned up. It's crazy to think that the event now attracts thousands, all wanting to have fun and raise money for a good cause," explains the 23-year-old from Sutton Coldfield.

The walk, supported by Free Radio, is set to take place in central Birmingham.

Transport bosses let youngsters have a say

YOUNG people from the Black Country advising transport bosses on the needs of passengers as part of a new youth forum.

Transport authority Centro has formed its Youth Forum to get views on bus, train and tram services and how they could be improved for young people. The 29-strong team, with members from across the Black Country, will meet regularly with Centro staff to contribute to discussions on transport policies.

Technology

The group will also be tasked with helping to form ideas to better connect passenger information with new technology.

Members of the group, aged 13 to 20, held their first meeting recently at Centro's Birmingham headquarters.

Centro's education boss Rachel Evans said: "The rise of technology has meant that the younger generation of public transport users often have a different outlook on how their lives could be made easier.

"We have already developed journey planning smartphone apps and expanded our real time information systems but these are the people who are best placed to help us ensure we are meeting the demands of the modern commuter."

The group will meet again in June to dhelp draw up a code of conduct for bus use. For details email: youthforum@centro.org.uk

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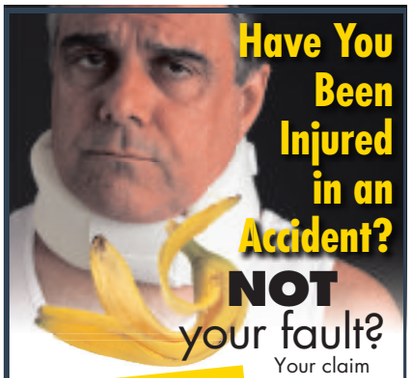
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Animals get to feast on market leftovers

Brockswood Sanctuary helpers introduce council staff to the animals who benefit from the market sheme

DENNIS the llama and Molly the pony are among a group of grateful animals who will be geting their five a day thanks to a successful trial to reduce waste from Dudley Market.

The joint project between Dudley Council, market traders and Brockswood Animal Sanctuary is part of the council's plans to reduce the amount of waste that Dudley Market disposes of each day.

The trial, which started last month' has already seen over one thousand kilogrammes of fruit and vegetables donated to feed more than 140 animals at the sanctuary.

The food would otherwise have been thrown away.

Tributes to campaigner

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Sandwell councillor and community campaigner who has died at the age of 59.

Mary Docker served as a councillor from 2004 to 2012 in Blackheath, where she worked as a market trader, running the Moonbeam Textiles stall.

She was also former deputy leader of Sandwell's Conservative opposition party before losing her seat.

The mother-of-two had been chairman of the Blackheath Business and Community Association.

She died a few weeks short of her 60th birthday, after losing her battle with cancer.

Friend

Former Sandwell Conservative leader Ray Nock said: "My family and I have lost a good friend.

"Sandwell has lost one of the last real Conservative councillors, who always put people before her own ambitions."

James Morris, Tory MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, added: "It is difficult to sum up the enormous contribution that Mary made in Blackheath over so many years, as a councillor, with the Business and Community Association and through all her other community activities. I will miss her frank and helpful support greatly."

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NEWS in brief

Company wins work for homes

BIRMINGHAM building services provider J S Wright is to fit out a new £7.2 million extra care scheme for older people in West Bromwich.

Thomas Vale, the Stourport-based construction business now owned by Bouygues UK, has awarded J S Wright the contract, worth in excess of £800,000, to design and build the mechanical services for the 83-flat development in Dial Lane for social housing provider Housing 21.

Work is scheduled to begin this month on the four-storey development, which will also have a restaurant, activity rooms, hairdressing salon and laundry all designed to help residents retain their independence.

Farage talk is a sell-out

MORE than 650 tickets to see UKIP Leader Nigel Farage speak when at Dudley Town Hall have been snapped up by supporters.

He will be in the borough on Friday to talk to more than 650 local supporters, who have applied for free to be part of the audience at the public meeting at the hall in St James Road.

The meeting is being hosted by West Midlands lead MEP candidate, Jill Seymour with guest speaker and MEP candidate Bill Etheridge, plus fellow West Midlands' European election candidates James Carver, Phil Henrick, Michael Wrench, Michael Green and Lyndon Jones.

Peppa Pig wows young fans at Merry Hill date

YOU would be forgiven for thinking it was tickets to see a boyband when 1,000 were snapped up in less than 50 minutes by people who had queued for hours.

But the source of the frenzy for free tickets was none other than popular children's TV character Peppa Pig, who made an Easter appearance at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Hundreds of excited youngsters and their parents turned out to see the popular character at the Brierley Hill centre for storytelling, games, dancing and fun.

Kelly Reed, marketing manager at the Westfield Centre said that Peppa was a top attraction.

She explained: "Peppa is such a popular character — we would have her here every day if we could.

First

"It is the sixth time we have had Peppa perform here and it's her10th anniversary this week, so to celebrate she is touring her Muddy Puddles show."

One of the first in the queue were friends Emma Bowen, Emma Mallard and Kayla Brown, all from Brierley Hill, who arrived at 7.30am to get tickets for their nine-strong brood of little Peppa fans. Mum-of-three, Emma Mallard, 28 , said: "We wanted to make sure we got tickets because it is something to do with the kids and they enjoy the show onTV."

Charlie Robbins, aged four, brought along two of his favourite teddies and was delighted to get the best view sat in the front row for the show featuring Peppa and her friends from the hit television programme.

Charlie's mother Marie Robins,38, from Dudley Wood, said: "He is Peppa Pig mad and was so excited for today he went to bed early so today would come around faster."

Dancing

The 30 minute interactive show saw Peppa Pig read out two stories to the wide-eyed audience before getting everyone, that's parents and children, involved in a series of singing and dancing games.

The delighted children were also given a free poster, badge and a musical toy pack as a souvenir of Peppa's show.

Number One Peppa Pig fan Charlie Robins, aged four, from Dudley Wood

Emma Bowen, Emma Mallard and Kayla Brown, with their nine children, who queued from 7.30am to see Peppa

One-year-old fan Lilly Parker ,of Rowley Regis

Families rush in for the Peppa Pig show

People sign for charity ramble

ABOUT 500 people have signed up for an annual charity walk, organisers have revealed.

The line-up at this year's Bridgnorth Walk will include about 400 adults and 80 juniors. Members of the walk's organising committee said the numbers were up last year but both sections still had several places still available.

The event, which usually attracts more than 1,000 participants, will include a £15 charge for entry into this year's event for the first time.

Committee members have said they have introduced the fees to help meet the event's running costs, such as paying for roads to be closed.

Previously organisers had taken a 10 per cent cut of the total cash raised, but have changed the system to make sure charities nominated receive as much money as possible.

Last year's event raised more than £100,000.

Walk secretary Peter Davidson said he was delighted to have received so many entries so early and was especially the junior section looked set to be a bumper year.

He said: "We have over 80 juniors registered so far, which is fantastic as this time last year we had under 50."

This year's walk will be held on May 26. To enter visit www.bridgnorthwalk.org

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Where no canoeist has dared to paddle before

A CANOE club has taken on one of the country's longest canal tunnels in a special day trip.

For the first time in its near 30-year history, around 20 members from the Stourbridge Arm Canoe Club have paddled through the Dudley Tunnel.

The tunnel, on the Birmingham Canal in Dudley, stretches 2,880 metres, reaches depths of around 60 metres and is pitch black in the middle. It was the first time in the tunnel for the members, who had to wear head lamps and needed to get permission from canal trust for the trip.

Andrew Gough, aged 42 from Marston Road in Dudley, joined the club with his 10-year-old son Dylan after they went to see canoeing during the Olympics. He said: "It's one of the longest canal tunnels in the country and we are lucky that we have it and the Netherton Tunnel, which is also one of the longest, right on our doorstep.

Eerie

"It was absolutely fantastic, just having the chance to do something that you wouldn't normally do. It is quite eerie going through because there are points where you are just in total darkness."

The club meets most Saturdays until late October at Ashwood Park Activity Centre, Wordsley, and through the winterat Haden Hill Leisure Centre. Call (01384) 293122.

Phil Hancocks leads members of Stourbridge Arm Canal Club through the 2,880 metre long tunnel

Fundraiser Matt hits £1.5k charity target

A FUNDRAISER putting himself through physical challenges in the year of his 40th birthday has passed his charity target of £1,500.

Father-of-one Matt Johnson, of Churchfield Drive, Rowley Regis, took on the Tough Guy challenge in Wolverhampton with fellow Sandwell Council worker Tom Davies on January 26.

The event is widely seen as the toughest assault course in the world. And now Mr Johnson, a website manager at Sandwell Council, has raised even more from running the London Marathon.

The 40-year-old is drumming up funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Matt's wife Karen died from the disease a month after giving birth to their only son at the age of 32.

He said: "I've passed my target of £1,500 and I'm now at £1,800. I'm hoping now to break the £2,000 barrier."

Mr Johnson is keeping a blog about his challenges at http://www.bigfouroh.wordpress.com/.

Operator to take over care home is revealed

A CARE home in Dudley which had been earmarked for closure by councillors will be taken over by a Halesowen housing and care provider, it has been revealed.

Campaigners fought to keep New Bradley Hall Care Home, Kingswinford, open after it was proposed to shut it. But when those plans were scrapped following public outcry, Dudley Council said it was seeking a not-for-profit group to take over.

by Andrew Turton

Blackheath-based Black Country Housing Group has been named the preferred organisation following a four-month tendering process.

Bosses have pledged to invest in improvements home after council officials claimed £750,000 would need to be spent on renovations.

Technical aspects still have to be ironed out including the transfer of permanent staff who work at the Compton Drive care home.

The council will continue to run New Bradley Hall, which cares for around 30 elderly residents, until the contracts are signed and the lease is agreed.

The housing group already has care contracts with the council and operates three sheltered-housing schemes across the borough.

The council's director of adult, community and housing services, Andrea Pope-Smith, said: "Black Country Housing Group is a first class provider of care for older people, and are the ideal not-for-profit organisation to secure the future of New Bradley Hall. We have said all along that this is about keeping the home open for residents and safeguarding jobs, and Black Country Housing Group has an excellent reputation in these fields." Black Country Housing Group,chief executive Amanda Tomlinson, added: "We are delighted to be able to work in partnership with Dudley Council to ensure the long-term future of this important facility for residents and staff."

"With our strong track record for providing high-quality domiciliary care to people in Dudley, aligned with our commitment to invest in New Bradley hall, we are well placed to operate a first class residential home which meets the needs of residents."

Members of New Bradley Hall Action group were cautious about the announcement and said they would be seeking further details on the deal Campaign leader Mac Scott said: "All we wanted was for the home to stay under local authority control."

Adult services boss, Councillor Dave Branwood, moved to allay fears saying: "They have a lot of experience in the care field.

"They will also inherit the staff within the care home. Some of the staff have a wealth of experience."

MP critical of cuts to environmental fund

A DUDLEY MP has spoken out against plans to cut £7.1 million from an environmental fund which has benefited projects in the Midlands.

The Government is proposing to slash the Landfill Communities Fund which compensates local communities affected by landfill activity. The fund has previously supported projects in Dudley including the restoration of Ruiton Windmill, Gornal and improvements to Priory Park.

Now Dudley North MP Ian Austin has tabled Parliamentary Questions and written to the Chancellor to raise concerns about how the funding cut will affect communities. Mr Austin said: "By choosing to slash £7.1 million from this pot of funding the government has proved yet again that investment in our area just isn't a priority.

"Projects like the improvements to Priory Park just couldn't have happened without this funding, so I'm raising my concerns with George Osborne."

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Brian seen at the wheel of his 1936 Austin Sevenwith best friend Vernon Walker, in 1953

The start of the restoration in Brian Rollings garage

The 78-year-old with his pride and joy 1936 Austin Seven Opal Tourer after restora-

How the Austin looked when Brian finally found it again

Stripped back and ready for a respray in April 2012

Cherished Austin powers Brian's drive to relive his younger days

IT WAS the first car he ever bought back in 1953 and driving it 'made him feel like a king'.

MEMORY LANE
by Adam Burling

Now pensioner Brian Rollings has been reunited with his beloved 1936 Austin Seven Opal Tourer – 61 years after he traded it in for a new model.

Mr Rollings bought the car when he was just 17 and spent hours polishing it and was the envy of his friends, even taking them to Weston-super-Mare in Somerset on holiday.

Brian even went on his first date with his wife of 56-years Sylvia, when they first met shortly after he bought his beloved car.

But two years after buying it, he reluctantly traded the car in for a bigger Ford Popular 103E in 1955.

Brian, now 77, always regretted selling the car and after getting interested in classic cars set about trying to track down his pride and joy.

After spending 10 years scouring classic car magazines, auction houses and internet sites, he finally found it in a dusty barn 18 miles away from his home in 2011. He bought the car, with a top speed of 52mph, back and has spent the last three years lovingly restoring it back to its former glory.

It now takes pride of place outside the great grandad's home in Walsall, and he has vowed never to be parted from the car again.

Brian, a retired engineer who has two grown-up sons, three grandsons and two great-granddaughters, said: "I bought the car from a greengrocer in Birmingham for £140 in 1953.

"I'd got a new job and wanted a car so put an ad in the local paper for an Austin Seven Opal, my dream car.

"A greengrocer contacted me and told me he had one so I raced over and viewed it and said I wanted it.

"I must have saved for months to find the money and I was worried someone else would snatch it up but when I drove it home for the first time I felt like a king.

"My mates thought it was great too and we had some fantastic times heading to the coast with the top down. I sold it in 1955 after trading it in for a bigger car but I always regretted doing that. I loved the car and over the years I just wanted to get it back.

"I got into classic cars and bought a Rolls-Royce and a Mark VI Bentley convertible but I always hankered for the old 1936 Austin Seven.

"Finally I saw it advertised when I went to the Practical Classics Restoration Show at the NEC in 2011.

"I enquired about the car immediately but was devastated to learn it had been sold the day before.

"It had been off the road for 40 years in a barn in Coleshill in Warwickshire. It was rotten and covered in toy teddy bears. I didn't recognise it. But when I saw the number plate my heart jumped. I couldn't believe I found it. I was determined not to let it slip away.

"The purchaser had agreed the deal and, even though it was painted orange and in a very grim state, I knew I could get it back to how it used to be. I collected the car the following week and started on the restoration immediately.

"I was 75 when I got the car back so I felt time was of the essence. Then on November 4, 2012, just 11 months after the project began it passed its MoT first time.

"I love driving it around now. I feel exactly like I did when I was 17."

Wife Sylvia, 77, a retired administrator, added: "I always say to people that Brian loved two things in this life, me and that Austin Seven. I remember him driving me around when we first started courting and it is lovely to go out again and relive all those wonderful memories."

More recently his motor was the star attraction at the Practical Classics Restoration Show at the NEC which was attended by tens of thousands of car fanatics.

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Progress for village's car park and supermarket plan

A SUPERMARKET and 91-space car park planned for Gornal has 'cleared its first hurdle' with three firms interested in taking on the site.

Report by Lee Watton

The development was first announced last year and is proposed for land in Zoar Street, Gornal, between Red Hall Primary School and Zoar Church.

Talks have been ongoing between site owners and other parties, including Dudley Council.

Ian Cole, of CH Properties, who owns the land, says these were now nearing a conclusion paving the way for full plans to be submitted to the council.

These are expected to be put forward in around two months and will be discussed by members of the authority's development control committee later this year.

Mr Cole said: "We are now just waiting for some final solicitors' letters to be signed and we will be able to progress.

"These things do take time but now the scheme has cleared its first hurdle things should be happening more quickly.

"We plan to have the proposals submitted in the next couple of months and hopefully get the approval we need.

"Gornal desperately needs a new car park and a new supermarket will bring competition to the village."

Some residents have been concerned about the level of interest from companies taking on the supermarket once it is built.

But Mr Cole said: "There has been quite a bit of interest in the development and at the moment there are three groups considering taking it on.

"There is still some way to go yet but things are progressing."

It is believed chemists Eggintons will become part of the development.

A plot of land to the rear of Zoar Street street would also be used for the supermarket and car park.

Residents have long been campaigning for better parking in the village as the limited number of existing spaces are full most of the day.

But while the new car park has been supported, the supermarket part of the scheme has split opinion. There are sone concers it will lead to increased traffic using Church Street, Temple Street and Zoar Street. Residents have said the route is already congested. The number of vehicles along the route rises during the morning and afternoon as parents drop off and collect their youngsters from Red Hall Primary School.

Others are concerned it will drive existing traders out of business.

Music will help to celebrate diverse region

A FREE community event to celebrate the region's cultural diversity will take place in Dudley on Saturday.

Musicians from different genres will play from 2pm on two stages at the Town Hall. There will be free family entertainment, from face painting to wall climbing, outside.

Youth acts from Sandwell Rocks will perform, together with other up-and-coming acts from across the region. More established acts will be playing during the evening.

From rock to soul artists, indie bands, folk singers and rappers, live music from all backgrounds will be performed to enjoy.

Headlining the main stage will be Roach Killa, an award-winning Punjabi rapper. Folk singer Grace Petrie, who has performed for Love Music Hate Racism in Stourbridge, said: "Enjoying music together shows the racists that we will not be divided."

Among the groups taking part isHalesowen indie band Seven Day Weekend.

Under the umbrella of Love Music Hate Racism, local trade unionists, anti-racists and councillors have organised the event.

Dudley councillor Tim Crumpton welcomed the initiative.

"It celebrates our diverse and fantastic community and showcases some of the real talent we have," he said.

The event has been sponsored and paid for by the trade unions UNISON, GMB and NUT.

Sparkles as couple reach diamond day

Diamond day celebrations as Ken and Joyce Gennard reach 60 years of marriage

Be kind, helpful and thoughtful to one another, that's the advice from a Netherton couple who have celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss. Ken and Joyce Gennard, of Mousesweet Close, reached their diamond wedding on April 17.

They met when they were sweet 16 but Ken remembers it as just a 'passing acquaintance' before he left at 18 to serve in the RAF. After two years in service Ken, now 84, returned in 1950 and they met again at a pub in Cradley Heath. After dating for three years the couple married on April 17 1954. The Easter Saturday wedding took place at St Andrew's Church, Netherton, and they held their reception in Brierley Hill.

The couplelived with Ken's parents for several years before they moved in to their first home and have lived at their Netherton address for 45 years. They have two children, six grandchildren and three great grand-daughters.

Asked the secret to a long marriage Mr Gennard said to learn to be happy and not focus on what you don't have.

Five councillors are going to retire at election

FIVE long-serving councillors have announced they are standing down ahead of next month's council elections.

Tory councillors John Woodall, Jill Nicholls, Elizabeth Walker, Colin Wilson and Independent Conservative Ray Burston told a full meeting of Dudley Council they would not be standing on May 22.

Amblecote's Councillor Elizabeth Walker is standing down from her role, which includes a position on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. She was first elected in 1978 and served until 1984, returning in 2006 and serving as a cabinet member for education.

Hayley Green and Cradley councillor, Ray Burston is standing down after more than 20 years. He has was borough mayor in 2008/09.

Councillor John Woodall, representative of Halesowen South and another former mayor, is stepping down after illness.

He was first elected in 1987 representing Belle Vale and Hasbury until 1995. He was re-elected in 1998 in the Halesowen South seat he has held ever since.

Councillor Nichols has served Belle Vale since 2003 and Councillor Wilson served Pedmore and Stourbridge East for ten years.

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New premises for Rex Johnson and Sons Jeweller's

Glittering new store a diamond

Ready to serve – David and Ben Johnson behind the counter

Customers receive a first class service at Rex Johnson and Sons Jewellers

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

REX Johnson & Sons Jewellers has a proud tradition spanning three generations in the Jewellery trade.

The experienced staff have been running the family shops since the 1970s.

It has expanded from one site in Wolverhampton selling pre-owned and antique jewellery to two high-profile stores in Birmingham and Dudley. The company is proud of the outstanding reputation it has have built up over that time for being one of the Midlands most trusted and respected jewellers.

Now the company has reached another important milestone with the company's relocation of its Dudley store from Birdcage Walk to new premises in Churchill Shopping Centre.

Managing Director David Johnson explains: " Celebrating as we are, the fact that we have been trading in Dudley for 40 years we are clearly very committed to the town centre and this move, which represents a considerable investment on our behalf confirms our continued support. The move puts us into one of the prime positions in the town".

Director Ben Johnson goes on to say: "Because of the friendly service and helpful advice people receive from our experienced and knowledgeable staff we find that customers come back to us again and again and this re positioning of our town centre location with its increased footfall will introduce a whole new set of customers to us that will potentially become loyal, long term clients for many years to come"

"We are naturally very excited at the prospect of welcoming customers old and new to the new shop and will be delighted to greet everyone who visits us on our official grand opening day next Tuesday (29) with a glass of bubbly."

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

Rex Johnson and Sons are specialists in the highest quality diamond jewellery with hundreds of beautiful rings in stock ranging in price from £50 to £50,000 in 9ct and 18ct gold, with gold and platinum, so you'll certainly be spoilt for choice. Other areas of expertise include antique jewellery, watches and pawnbroking

Whether buying or selling antique jewellery Rex Johnson & Sons offersthe best prices for vintage and pre owned items.The company specialises in Victorian, Edwardian and art Deco pendants,rings, brooches, bracelets and watches.

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GOLD RUSH

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PROFESSIONAL AND HELPFUL

Need cash in a hurry? Rex Johnson and Sons will offer you a competitive loan whilst keeping your valuables safe and secure until you want them back.

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Rex Johnson & Sons are Associates of the National Association of Goldsmiths, the British Jeweller's Association and the National Pawn broking Association, making them the family Jewellers you can trust.

Rex Johnson & Sons
Three generations of family jewellers

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Course Title	Start Date	Day	Time	Duration	Cost*
ICT – COMPUTERS				*Concessions May Be Available	
Photoshop	12/05/2014	Monday	6.30-8.30	6 Weeks	£30.00
Photoshop	06/05/2014	Tuesday	6.30-8.30	6 Weeks	£30.00
Computers for Senior Citizens	9/05/2014	Friday	1.30–3.30	10 weeks	£45.00
Computers for Senior Citizens	9/05/2014	Friday	3.30-5.30	10 weeks	£45.00
Mastering Your Android Phone or Tablet	September 2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	6 Weeks	£40.00
Using E Bay to Buy and Sell	September 2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	4 Weeks	£30.00
ARTS & CRAFTS					
Face Painting	07/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£50.00
Flower Arranging - Beginners	12/05/2014	Monday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Flower Arranging – Improvers	07/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Flower Arranging for Brides on a Budget	14/06/2014	Saturday	9.00-12.00	1 Day	£45.00
Costume Design	08/05/2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Fashion Sewing	06/05/2014	Tuesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Cake Decorating and Sugarcraft - Beginners	06/05/2014	Tuesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Cake Decorating & Sugarcraft - Improvers	03/06/2014	Tuesday	7.00-9.00	6 Weeks	£30.00
Jewellery Making - Improvers	06/05/2014	Tuesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Jewellery Making - Beginners	07/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Soft Furnishing	07/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Black Country Crafts	07/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Art – How to Draw and Paint	09/05/2014	Friday	9.45-11.45	10 weeks	£45.00
Art – How to Draw and Paint	09/05/2014	Friday	12.00-2.00	10 weeks	£45.00
Art – Drawing Masterclass	July 2014	TBA	10.00-4.00	1 Day	£30.00
Art – Acrylics Masterclass	July 2014	TBA	10.00-4.00	1 Day	£30.00
Art - Portraiture	September 2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£55.00
Stained Glass – A Beginners Course	September 2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£55.00
MUSIC					
Guitar Beginners	08/05/2014	Thursday	6.00-7.00	10 Weeks	£22.50
Guitar – Follow On	07/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
	08/05/2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
BEAUTY					
Gel manicures, Pedicures & Market your own business:	12/05/2014	Monday	5.30-7.15	10 Weeks	£50.00
Deluxe Manicures, Pedicures & Market your own business	12/05/2014	Monday	7.30-9.15	10 Weeks	£50.00
Beauty - Bridal Make-up and Skincare	13/05/2014	Tuesday	7.30-9.15	10 Weeks	£50.00
Beauty – prom Make-up and Skincare	13/05/2014	Tuesday	5.30-7.15	10 Weeks	£50.00
LANGUAGES					
Sign Language Level 1 award in BSL	September 2014	Monday	7.00-9.00	35 weeks	£250.00
Sign Language Level 2 award in BSL	September 2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	53 Weeks	£375.00
Introduction to Sign Language	September 2014	Monday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£60.00
Spanish – Beginners, Entry Level 1	12/05/2014	Monday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
Spanish – follow on Entry level 2	06/05/2014	Tuesday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
WRITING					
Creative Writing	8/05/2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	10 Weeks	£45.00
BUSINESS					
Start Your own Business	10/05/2014	Saturday	9.30-11.30	10 Weeks	£50
Stock Market Trading	7/05/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	4 Weeks	£25
	11/06/2014	Wednesday	7.00-9.00	4 Weeks	£25
DANCE					
Strictly Latin & Salsa	08/05/2014	Thursday	7.00-9.00	6 Weeks	£30.00
Belly Dance for Beginners	9/05/2014	Friday	6.15-7.15	10 Weeks	£25.00
Black Sheep Belly Dance – Level 2	9/05/2014	Friday	7.30-9.00	10 Weeks	£35.00
KEEP FIT					
Gentle Keep Fit	06/05/2014	Tuesday	9.45-11.00	10 Weeks	£30.00
Zumba	06/05/2014	Tuesday	11.15-12.15	10 Weeks	£25.00
HISTORY					
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Schools say farewell to long-serving staff

A CARETAKER and lunchtime supervisor have retired from two schools after clocking up almost 50 years between them.

Supervisor Doris Hanbury worked at Woodside Community School in Dudley for 35 years, while caretaker Mike Marsden was at Ham Dingle Primary School in Pedmore, Stourbridge, for 14 years.

Both have now served their final day to the sadness of teachers and pupils.

Retiring lunchtime supervisor Doris Hasbury says goodbye at an assembly

Caretaker Mike Marsden sweeps up for the last time at Ham Dingle Primary

Children

A former Woodside Community School pupil, Mrs Hanbury returned to work at the school when her children Julie, Suzanne and Lisa started to attend.

She said: "I joined so my children had someone at home when they came back. I also shared the same school holiday. But when they left, I continued to stay because I enjoyed it and I could do it alongside working for my husband's removal business."

She added: "I will miss it, it was a big part of me."

A special assembly was held at the school in Mrs Hanbury's honour. She was also presented with cards from every class.

Headteacher Sally Bloomer said "Mrs Hanbury will be sorely missed as she never failed to provide a service with a smile, and will always hold a special place in the hearts of staff and children alike.

"We wish Mrs Hanbury a happy and healthy retirement."

Mr Marsden, aged 65, has lived on site at Ham Dingle Primary School for the past 14 years, while carrying out his caretaker duties. He is retiring and moving to a new home in Wall Heath.

As a send-off staff and pupils at the school presented Mr Marsden with a card and a digital camera.

The former engineer said: "I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of my work at Ham Dingle. I am leaving an excellent school with fantastic staff and lovely parents and children.

"I will certainly miss the school but I'm also looking forward to a well earned rest to put my feet up and have a quiet sing-song to myself."

Headteacher Joanne Davies said: "Mike has been a much-loved member of the Ham Dingle community since 2000 and he knows many parents and knows the names of most of the children. He will certainly be missed because of his upbeat attitude, his loud singing and joke telling."

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Paolo getting his new shoes ready as tour visits the Civic

Puppet show is for adults only

AWARD-WINNING puppet comedy musical Avenue Q will be visiting Birmingham.

A hit on Broadway and the West End, the adult comedy will be visiting the New Alexandra Theatre from September 16 to 20.

With naughty puppets brought to life by an ensemble cast of 11 performers, Avenue Q is a Tony Award-winning musical that first opened at New York's off-Broadway Vineyard Theatre in 2003, before transferring to Broadway later that year where it won three Tonys for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book.

In 2006 it opened in the West End, where it ran for five years before touring.

More good news for Russell's fans

DUE to huge demand comedian Russell Howard has extended his sold-out arena tour into the autumn including an extra date in Birmingham.

The star of TV show Russell Howard's Good News will be returning to the LG Arena on December 21. Tickets are priced £31.50.

Comedy over the next week includes Wulfrun Hall shows for Josh Widdicombe tonight and Paul Chowdhry next Thursday. Jack Dee and the I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue radio show crew are at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday for two performances... with the lovely Samantha?

Singing Sister Tasheka

TASHEKA Coe made it to the final 20 out of 9,000 aiming to become Andrew Lloyd Webber's next West End star in TV show Over The Rainbow.

Tasheka didn't get to walk down the Yellow Brick Road to star as Dorothy at the London Palladium but she is preparing for the lead role of Deloris Van Cartier in West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Sister Act at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

The soul stirring comedy musical about a streetwise singer finding sanctuary from a gangster with an order of nuns was a hit movie in the 1990s with Whoopi Goldberg in the lead role. It later became a popular Broadway and West End show. The WBOS production of Sister Act will be at the Grand from May 13 to 17. For tickets call 01902 429212.

Tasheka Coe is starring in West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Sister Act

IT has been a long wait but Scottish singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini is back with an acclaimed new album and a tour including a sold out concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday, May 30.

The 27-year-old from Paisley, where his parents ran a fish and chip shop, made an instant impact in 2006 with his debut album These Streets, including the hits Last Request and New Shoes, and released his second, Sunny Side Up, three years later yielding the hits Pencil Full of Lead and 10/10.

Olympic

Since then not a lot of has been heard of the soulful singer, besides his singing appearance at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, because Paolo has been on global travels "seeking adventure".

Now he is back with his Caustic Love album, including the single Scream (Funk My Life Up), which has won rave reviews.

Pick of the gigs over the forthcoming week include the return of Neil Finn, the former frontman of New Zealand bands Crowded House and Split Enz bringing his solo show to Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday (£35).

Three time Grammy Award winner Ben Harper brings his Weissenborn guitar to the Symphony Hall on Tuesday (£32.50). Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson previews his new solo album at the same venue on May 1 (£30/£35).

Civic gig — Paolo Nutini

Blues rocker Larry Miller is at Bilston's Robin 2 tonight (£12 or £14 on the door), and the Mount Pleasant venue then hosts rising folk/pop band The Moulettes on Wednesday, April 30 (£8 or £10 on the door) with support from Scottish folk musician Kate Young.

So good that it is going wrong

AN awful whodunnit goes badly wrong to much comic effect in highly-rated new farce The Play That Goes Wrong, which is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 3.

The cosmic boogie of glam rock star Marc Bolan and his band T Rex is celebrated in new musical 20th Century Boy at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre Monday to Saturday.

The Birmingham International Dance Festival continues at Birmingham Hippodrome with the powerful Sideways Rain danced by the 14-strong Alias on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Masked theatre company Vamos bring Finding Joy to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight.

Rick's classical concept concert

A PROGRESSIVE rock landmark is revived on Tuesday when keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman celebrates the 40th anniversary of his classical-rock concept album Journey To The Centre Of The Earth, at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Based on the science fiction novel by Jules Verne, the former Yes star will be teaming up with an orchestra for a new production of the show first performed at London's Royal Festival Hall in 1974. It will feature visuals by famed Yes album sleeve designer Roger Dean. Tickets cost £46.50 or £52.

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CHOICE

Tom Schilling

Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Usually, if you want a Saturday night fix of subtitled drama, you have to turn to BBC Four. But now BBC Two is getting in on the act as well with this new series, the first foreign language show to premiere on the channel since The Kingdom back in 2001. But it's not just the fact that the characters aren't speaking English that makes Generation War unusual – it's also exploring the Second World War from the perspectives of five German friends. It opens in Berlin, in the summer of 1941, as highly decorated officer Wilhelm prepares to be leave for the eastern front with his bookish younger brother Friedhelm. But it's their Jewish friend Viktor who appears to be facing the most uncertain future.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.20 Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller.

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong hosts as contestants from the world of comedy take part in the game show. They are one-time Goodie Tim Brooke-Taylor, satirist John Bird, former sitcom actors Don Warrington, Ray Burdis and Robert Llewellyn, master of the hidden camera Dom Joly and stand-up stars Rhona Cameron and Richard Herring. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst? Richard Osman is the one with the answers.

7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, hosted by Kate Garraway.

8.40 Casualty. Dixie risks her job to take a patient to see his dying mother, while a woman's unusual birthday treat to herself lands her in hospital. Jan Francis and John Bowe guest star.

9.30 The Guess List. Harry Judd, Jason Manford, Carol Vorderman, Aled Jones and Kate Humble help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Southampton v Everton at the St Mary's Stadium and Manchester United v Norwich City at Old Trafford; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Wigan Athletic v Blackpool.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: Caught. (1949) **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **5.30** Mountain Gorilla. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the show's experts offer more advice on making money from antiques and collectibles, with this edition focusing on rare and valuable tools.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third and final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another two second-round matches are set to take place, with one of them scheduled to conclude.

8.00 Porridge. Career criminal Fletch plans his escape while being escorted to jail by two prison warders. Pilot episode of the classic comedy, starring Ronnie Barker and Fulton Mackay. (R)

8.30 Mozart in Prague: Rolando Villazon on Don Giovanni. The tenor explores the premiere of Mozart's opera of 1787, studying the music and the social setting in which it was first performed, before authentically recreating the finale.

9.30 Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers. New series. German drama following the stories of five friends as their lives take different paths during the Second World War. Volker Bruch and Tom Schilling star.

11.00 The Sarah Millican Television Programme. Sarah chats to Suzi Perry about F1 coverage, discusses Saturday night entertainment with Bruno Tonioli and talks magazine shows with Matt Baker and Alex Jones. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match was scheduled to reach a climax.

12.20 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25 Film:** Murder, She Wrote: South by Southwest. (1997) **11.10** Dinner Date. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **1.20** The Unforgettable Hughie Green. (R) **1.50** Tipping Point. (R) **2.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.35** A Touch of Frost. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Let Me Entertain You. New series. Michael Underwood showcases viewers' dancing, singing and lip-synching clips alongside entertaining videos from the internet and hidden-camera surprises.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – hope to uncover more of the nation's talent.

8.15 Amazing Greys. Young contestants go head to head with old pros, including World Cup-winning England striker Geoff Hurst and golf ace Vivien Saunders. Paddy McGuinness and Angela Rippon host.

9.15 Law & Order: UK. When a series of shootings claims one of their own, Ronnie and Joe must solve the case before the killer reaches the next target – on a hit list that includes Henry Sharpe. (R)

10.15 The Americans. Kate relays orders for Philip to bug the Arpanet – the early version of the internet – to monitor US government communications, while Nina agrees to take the FBI's polygraph test.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon invites actor Larry Lamb and former Spice Girl Emma Bunton to join Dave Berry on the panel as he noses around the homes of three mystery celebrities. (R)

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Dinner Date: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 River Cottage Bites. (R) **6.15** Trans World Sport. **7.10** The Grid. **7.40** A Day at the Races. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** How I Met Your Mother. **11.25** How I Met Your Mother. **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Ripon. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Merchant Navy officer Fiona Rush hosts the final dinner party in Belfast, hoping to impress with a nautical theme and fish dishes, before the winner is announced. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tamayo Hussey, who has missed Japan ever since she moved to the UK 14 years ago with her husband, quantum physics professor Nigel. The couple want to transform a 1960s forester's lodge into a unique Japanese house, complete with a tatami room – decorated in her homeland's traditional style – sliding paper walls and a bath on the roof. Keen to keep costs down, they have decided to engage only the design skills – rather than the full services – of an architect, so with no previous building experience they tackle the project alone. (R)

8.15 Film: Avatar. (2009) A paraplegic soldier uses technology that allows him to control a genetically engineered body on a mission to a dangerous jungle world. His assignment is to infiltrate an alien tribe on behalf of a corrupt mining corporation, which wants to drive them from their land. He comes to sympathise with the natives, and helps them fight back against his employers. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver and Stephen Lang.

11.25 Film: Showgirls. (1995) A stripper sets out to become a star in a Las Vegas show, but reckons without the dubious backstage backstabbing. Adult drama, starring Elizabeth Berkley and Kyle MacLachlan.

1.50 The Good Wife. (R) **2.35** Desperate Housewives. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.25** SuperScrimpers' Challenge. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **11.00** Benidorm ER. (R) **12.00** Beware! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) **1.00 Film:** Columbo: Ashes to Ashes. (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. **2.55 Film:** Private Benjamin. (1980) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. **5.00 Film:** Jesse Stone: Sea Change. (2007) Thriller, starring Tom Selleck.

6.40 Longmire. Walt searches for a missing Native American boy who has been fostered by a white family.

7.30 NCIS. The team investigates the death of a marine off the coast of Tanzania – a case complicated by the discovery that he had a link to Ziva. Starring Mark Harmon and Cote de Pablo. (R)

8.15 NCIS. The agents investigate the Halloween murder of a marine with a fondness for playing practical jokes. As the evidence accumulates, they begin to suspect he was killed by the exasperated victim of one of his pranks. Drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. (R)

9.05 5 News Weekend.

9.15 Britain's Funniest Comedy Characters. Olivia Colman narrates this countdown of the nation's top 50 TV comic creations, both new and old. Those featured include neurotic hotel owner Basil Fawlty, disillusioned executive Reginald Perrin, seedy landlord Rigsby, the generation-hopping Blackadder, Ab Fab's Patsy and Eddy, David Brent from The Office, love's young dream duo Gavin & Stacey, crazy joke-shop owner Miranda, the even crazier Keith Lemon, Irish matriarch Mrs Brown and sex-mad virgin Jay from The Inbetweeners. Contributors to the show – some of whom are sure to feature on the list themselves – include Ruth Madoc (Hi-de-Hi!), Warren Mitchell (Alf Garnett), Neil Morrissey (Men Behaving Badly's Tony), Prunella Scales and Andrew Sachs (Fawlty Towers), plus Ann Widdecombe, Barry Cryer, Richard Curtis and Ronni Ancona. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear Vietnam Special **8.15 Film:** Toy Story 3 (2010) **9.55** Live at the Apollo **10.40** Russell Howard's Good News **11.10** Family Guy **1.00** Sweat the Small Stuff **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** In the Flesh **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London **8.00** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Cleopatra: The Film That Changed Hollywood **11.00** The Story of Top of the Pops 1979 **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1979 **12.35** John Denver: Country Boy **1.35** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **2.35** Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.05 Tom Daley Goes Global **12.10** Britain's Got Talent **1.30** Britain's Got More Talent **2.30** Lawson: The Hot Desk **2.45 Film:** Dungeons and Dragons (2000) **5.00 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** Totally You've Been Framed! **7.45** You've Been Framed! **8.15** Britain's Got More Talent **9.20** You've Been Framed! Family Special **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.15** Britain's Got Talent **12.35** Britain's Got More Talent **1.35** Fake Reaction **2.10** Dads **2.35** You've Been Framed! **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot **12.50** Jane Austen's Emma **3.00 Film:** The Railway Children (1970) **5.10** Foyle's War **7.10** Rosemary & Thyme **8.15** Doc Martin **9.15** Martin Clunes: Man to Manta **10.20** Cold Blood **11.55 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders v Kings XI Punjab. **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **9.00 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** River Monsters **1.50** Benidorm **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 The Big Bang Theory **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00 Film:** Hop (2011) **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** The A-Team (2010) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.25** Party House **1.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.00** The Cleveland Show **3.10** Youngers **4.00** Made in Chelsea **4.55** Ugly Betty

Film4

11.00 The Truth About Spring (1964) **1.00** Cocoon (1985) **3.20** The Longest Day (1962) **6.50** The Golden Compass (2007) **9.00** Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987) **10.45** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **12.30** Confessions (2010) **2.40** A Useful Life (2010) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Brenda Blethyn

Vera
(ITV, 8pm)
Not only did author Ann Cleeves create the books and characters on which the acclaimed Shetland is based, she's also the brains behind DCI Vera Stanhope, who's back for a new series. DS Ashworth's daughter witnesses the murder of pensioner Margaret Kraszewski on a busy Newcastle train at the height of rush hour. As a result, he's keener than ever to help Vera apprehend the killer, and the trail leads them to the B&B Margaret shared with a woman and her teenage children. Further investigation suggests she knew her killer, and that her death was tied to secrets from her past. Brenda Blethyn, David Leon, Jon Morrison, Clare Calbraith, Sonya Cassidy, Eva Birthistle, Alistair Petrie and Paul Copley star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Perfection. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Monkey Planet. (R) **4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison are in the Yorkshire Dales, helping small magazine The Dalesman celebrating its 75th anniversary by naming the top 75 icons of the county. Their journey takes in a visit to Bolton Abbey, a meeting with the ladies of Harrogate's Cappuccino Cycling Club – who are being photographed in their undies for charity – a brass band and a coastline search for the semi-precious stone, Whitby jet. Adam Henson meets the three finalists in this year's Outstanding Farmer of the Year award and Tom Heap investigates the claim that the current crisis over abandoned horses could be partially solved by eating the animals' meat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Gregynog Hall, near Newtown in Powys, where items include secret plans drawn up by a British PoW and an artistic tribute to race-riot victims.

9.00 The Crimson Field. Joan's spirits are lifted by the arrival of 13 soldiers who have avoided death by sticking together – but one of them holds a secret. Kitty is confronted by a figure from her past.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Sunderland v Cardiff City, Liverpool v Chelsea and Crystal Palace v Manchester City.

11.40 The White Slums: Reggie Yates' Extreme South Africa. New series. Reggie Yates travels to South Africa 20 years after the first democratic elections to explore three different communities, beginning with a squatter camp.

12.40 Weatherview. **12.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25 Film:** Cornered. (1945) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.45** Coast. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

6.00 50 Golden Years of Sport on BBC Two. Sue Barker presents a look back at the history of sport on the channel through some of its most-watched events over the past 50 years. The film examines the birth of programmes including Match of the Day, Ski Sunday and Pot Black and reflects on memorable occasions such as the 1985 world snooker championship final between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis, and the Ashes series in 1981. Featuring contributions by Gary Lineker, Ian Botham, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Steve Cram, Alan Hansen, Clare Balding, Des Lynam, Murray Walker and Alan Davies. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continue.

8.00 Natural World: France – The Wild Side. Paul McGann narrates a look at France's wildlife, revealing wolves, wild boar and bears living in the country's many mountains, valleys and forests. (R)

9.00 Film: The Artist. (2011) Premiere. A 1920s movie actor is smitten with a chorus girl he meets by chance, and helps arrange her big break in the film industry. Oscar-winning silent drama, starring Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo and John Goodman.

10.35 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz, featuring Professor Brian Cox, Rhys Darby, Jason Manford and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of justice.

11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the second round continued with two more matches.

12.10 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Victorious. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25 Film:** Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **1.30** The Unforgettable Noele Gordon. (R) **2.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.20** Let Me Entertain You. (R) **3.50 Film:** The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Seb needs a sponge bath, Rosie loses a rather unusual pet and Tony tries to prove there really is such a thing as a free lunch.

8.00 Vera. New series. The crime drama returns with an episode based on Ann Cleeves' recently published novel Harbour Street. Vera investigates the death of a pensioner found stabbed on a train at the height of rush hour. The case has a huge impact on Joe's home life when his daughter is named as a key witness, and he struggles to maintain a professional distance. The trail leads the team to a quiet Northumberland coastal town where clues appear to lead to one particular street – but why are the residents so reluctant to talk? Starring Brenda Blethyn, with David Leon, Sonya Cassidy, Jon Morrison and Eva Birthistle.

10.00 Perspectives: Gary Kemp – Kick Out the Jams. The Spandau Ballet star, a keen art collector, explores the work of Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin and the other Young British Artists, who shook up the modern art world 25 years ago.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Britt Ekland. The former Bond girl talks about her career and private life, opening up about her turbulent marriage to Peter Sellers. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Freesports on 4. **6.45** Freesports on 4. **7.10** British GT. **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** Deal or No Deal. **4.30 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. (2011) Premiere. Children's comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. An insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking, going behind the scenes at a Surrey-based firm dealing in luxurious and exclusive objects. In last year's one-off documentary, the asset experts at Prestige Pawnbrokers saw everything from a £25,000 designer handbag to a £1million helicopter, and in the first edition of this series, they're amazed by two diamond necklaces owned by very different clients. (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead scour the nation for a Land Rover Series I, which went into production in 1948 with a run of just 39,000. Tracking down an example that has been sitting in a barn for more than 40 years, renowned car designer Ant tries to restore the unloved vehicle to its former glory. Meanwhile, Philip meets the Landie enthusiasts who gather in woodland to thrash their cars in the most basic form of motorsport, plus men who once depended on the Series I for survival in the desert.

9.00 Fargo. Sheriff's deputy Molly begins to suspect Lester is involved in the murders, but new boss Bill points her in a different direction. Meanwhile, Malvo investigates the blackmail plot against a man known as the Supermarket King. Black comedy-drama based on the Coen brothers' critically acclaimed film, starring Martin Freeman, Billy Bob Thornton, Allison Tolman and Bob Odenkirk.

10.10 Film: The Haunting in Connecticut. (2009) Premiere. Horror, with Virginia Madsen and Kyle Gallner.

12.10 Film: Sunshine. (2007) **2.00** The Good Wife. (R) **2.45** The Hotel. (R) **3.40** SuperScrimpers' Challenge. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. **11.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.35** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.35 Film:** The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **2.05 Film:** Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey. (1993) Animal adventure, with the voice of Michael J Fox. **3.45 Film:** Lilo & Stitch. (2002) Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. **5.30 Film:** Freaky Friday. (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan.

7.10 5 News.

7.15 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) The two mismatched detectives travel to Hong Kong to investigate a bombing at the US embassy, and take on Triad gangsters. Action comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. Edited for violence and language.

9.00 Film: The Other Guys. (2010) Premiere. Two desk-bound incompetent cops live in the shadow of their more daring colleagues. However, when the heroes of the station are killed in a bizarre accident, the bumbling duo get the chance to prove their worth as they stumble across a tycoon's illegal activities. Action comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Steve Coogan and Eva Mendes. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.10 Film: Bad Boys. (1995) Two detectives are forced to swap identities as they hunt for a heroin consignment stolen by a drug kingpin. Michael Bay's action thriller, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. Edited for language.

1.20 SuperCasino. **3.05** Britain's Crime Capitals. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.30 Film:** WALL.E (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Ja'mie: Private School Girl **12.20** The Call Centre **1.20** Can Criminals Say Sorry? **2.20** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.50** In the Flesh **3.50** Great TV Mistakes **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Don Giovanni from the Royal Opera House **10.00** Sting: When the Last Ship Sails **11.20** The Joy of Easy Listening **12.50** The Wonder of Bees with Martha Kearney **1.20** Neil Diamond: Solitary Man **2.20** Neil Diamond: Radio 2 Electric Prom **3.25** Sounds of the 70s 2 Reggae – Stir It Up **3.55** Close

ITV2
12.00 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **2.35 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.30** Britain's Got Talent **5.45** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** You've Been Framed! **7.20 Film:** Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) **10.00** Viral Tap **10.50 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **1.00** Viral Tap **1.40** The Vampire Diaries **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.25 Jane Austen's Emma **1.30** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.40** Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.00 Film:** Fierce Creatures (1997) **11.55** Cracker **1.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.45** Judge Judy **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad v Chennai Super Kings. **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Klitschko (2011) **11.25 Film:** Tremors (1989) **1.25** Warren United **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.35 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Revenge **2.35** Rude(ish) Tube **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Sister Act (1992) **10.05** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **11.05** How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Rules of Engagement **1.00** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **2.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Brady Bunch Movie (1995) **1.00** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (2008) **3.00** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **4.50** Chariots of Fire (1981) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **11.05** The Informers (2008) **1.00** If (1968) **3.15** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Smokin' Aces, ITV, 10.35pm
A Las Vegas showman agrees to become an FBI informant and dish the dirt on a big-time mobster. However, the gangster responds by putting a price on his head, and soon a motley crew of assassins from across the country are vying to claim the bounty – while the showman only has two agents for protection. Comedy crime drama, starring Jeremy Piven, Ben Affleck, Zach Cumer, Andy Garcia and Ray Liotta. (2007)

TUESDAY
Goodnight for Justice: Queen of Hearts, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Judge John Goodnight intercedes in a stagecoach robbery and rescues the only surviving passenger. He escorts her to safety by riverboat, gradually learning she is a con-woman who was on her way to prison. His staunch morals are tested as he is tempted to help her escape justice. Western sequel, starring Luke Perry, Katharine Isabelle and Ricky Schroder. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
A Bronx Tale, BBC1, 11.45pm
An honest, hard-working bus driver watches helplessly as his teenage son falls under the spell of a smooth-talking, sharp-suited gangster and is gradually drawn deeper into the criminal underworld. Crime drama, directed by and starring Robert De Niro. (1993)

Withnail & I, Friday, Channel 4, 12.30am

THURSDAY
Stealing Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An aeronautical engineer is outraged when a colleague steals her ideas for himself and patents them. When he is later found dead, she becomes the prime suspect in the police investigation, and must find a way to clear her name. Thriller, starring Rachael Leigh Cook. (2011)

FRIDAY
My Family's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A man attempts suicide, leaving a cryptic note claiming he may have caused his sister's death. His wife goes back to his home town in search of answers and asks his brother for help. She does not realise her brother-in-law has a split personality, and digging up the past brings out his more dangerous aspects. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom, Philip Riccio and Dylan Neal. (2010)

Withnail & I, Channel 4, 12.30am
Two hard-drinking unemployed actors sharing a grotty flat in late 1960s London think they can escape their miserable existence by decamping to a cottage in the Lake District. But finding no respite from their problems, the less self-destructive of the pair comes to realise he has to leave his friend behind. Cult black comedy, starring Richard E Grant and Paul McGann. (1987)

Pick of the Week

Vera tries to keep her new case on track

Ann Cleeves must be feeling pretty pleased with the way her career is going at the moment.

The 60-year-old author's novels continue to sell well and the TV series Shetland, which is based on her books about DI Jimmy Perez, has just ended an acclaimed run on BBC1.

There's hardly been time to draw breath between that and the start of Vera's fourth series.

DCI Vera Stanhope, played so convincingly by Brenda Blethyn, was also created by Cleeves, and the first three sets of cases have proved popular with ITV viewers – and with the actress who plays her.

Blethyn has a variety of acclaimed roles to her name, including an Oscar nomination for playing an overbearing mother in Little Voice, but Vera is her longest acting commitment to date.

"I'll continue to play Vera for as long as the audience wants to see her, as I absolutely love the character," says the actress. "I was first attracted to the role because the drama focuses on the crime rather than her personal life, and Vera's not your usual run-of-the-mill detective. She doesn't come with any baggage; she's not hampered by romance. If you passed her in the street you wouldn't dream she was a detective.

"The success of Vera is down to a team effort. It sounds a cliché to say it, but every single person in the cast and crew plays a vital role in the show's success. The international success of the previous three series is very gratifying and of course it's great to receive such positive feedback from fans."

In January, Cleeves' latest book featuring DCI Stanhope, Harbour Street, was published. It also forms the basis of the first case to be tackled by the character in this fourth run.

DS Ashworth's daughter witnesses the murder of pensioner Margaret Kraszewski on a busy Newcastle train at the height of rush hour.

As a result, he's keener than ever to help Vera apprehend the killer, particularly as he feels partly to blame for his daughter being on the train in the first place.

"Joe's daughter Jessie is under a lot of pressure to recall the events that took place, which is obviously very distressing for one so young, and which creates tension between Joe and Celine. Had Joe followed his wife's advice and paid for a taxi home, their daughter would have been spared the anguish."

The investigation eventually leads Vera and Joe to the B&B Margaret shared with a woman and her teenage children. Further investigation suggests she knew her killer, and that her death was tied to secrets from her past.

Once this case is wrapped up, there are three more for the duo to get their teeth into – what can we expect from those?

"Viewers will meet Marcus Summer (Kingsley Ben-Adir), our new pathologist, who is joining the team following Billy's departure," explains Blethyn. "He's a pretty smart cookie and quickly gets the measure of Vera!

"And as always we have some stunning landscapes featured across the four films."

David Leon and Brenda Blethyn star in Vera, Sunday, ITV, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Britain's Most Extreme Weather
Channel 4, 8pm
It's been a mild winter, but Britain has been battered by terrible storms and gale force winds, not to mention a tidal surge. Flooding has wrecked the homes of thousands living across the country – and if extreme weather continues through the summer, we may end up with a drought. But why have we been facing such unusual conditions? In this four-part series, weatherman Alex Beresford attempts to find out. He also trawls through the archives to find out if we're now facing the worst weather our shores have ever faced – and if things are getting worse. The first programme focuses on floods, and it seems that compared to the aftermath of the Great Storm of 1703, in 2014 we've got away with things lightly.

Prey
ITV, 9pm
We have high hopes for this new, three-part thriller, which stars John Simm. In some respects it sounds a little bit like The Fugitive – Simm plays a well-liked bloke who is framed for a crime he didn't commit, escapes from the authorities and sets out to clear his name. Simm plays DC Marcus Farrow, a likeable copper with two sons who is found at the scene of a brutal crime. When all the evidence points at him being the culprit, he's arrested and charged, but makes a bid for freedom. Suddenly he's on the run on the streets he used to police, trying to evade recapture by his colleague, DS Susan Reinhardt, while also attempting to clear his name.

TUESDAY
Happy Valley
BBC1, 9pm
Writer Sally Wainwright and actress Sarah Lancashire must have formed a solid friendship after the incredibly successful Last Tango in Halifax – they've reteamed for this crime thriller, which incidentally is filmed not too far away from that romantic drama, in Calderdale, West Yorkshire. But while the backdrop of the rolling hills and sleepy villages may seem picturesque, there's enough crime going down to keep the local bobbys busy. Catherine Cawood (Lancashire) is the sergeant on duty when flustered accountant Kevin Weatherill (Steve Pemberton) stumbles into the station to report a crime – a crime that was his own doing.

WEDNESDAY
Secret Eaters
Channel 4, 8pm
Having been together for four years, Allan and Emma are in that 'comfortable' stage – so much so that they have no idea why they seem to be putting on so much weight. But the surveillance cameras reveal something we can all be guilty of – super-sized portions at meal times. Not to worry – Anna Richardson is on hand with some no-nonsense advice and a plan of action to ensure the couple change their lifestyles and begin to notice the changes by the belt notch. Meanwhile, psychologist Dr Christy Ferguson sets up an experiment in a Manchester office to see if pre-ordering your lunch means you're more likely to make healthier choices than choosing on impulse.

Prey, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Derek
Channel 4, 10pm
Brace yourselves for Kev as you've never seen him before – or at least, doing something you never expected. Since we first met him in the first series, he's been a layabout who's preferred to spend his days downing cans of lager rather than actually doing anything constructive. But Kev seems set to change his ways when he discovers there are jobs available at Broadhill – seeing as he spends most of his time hanging out at the place, he may as well get paid for it, right? But cleaning up his act won't be easy... Meanwhile, Hannah worries about Vicky's new relationship and Derek is stirred up by a new acquaintance.

THURSDAY
Posh Pawn
Channel 4, 8pm
Millions of us telly addicts love spotting a bargain without leaving the comfort of our sofas, whether it's the whimsical charm of homegrown hit Bargain Hunt, or the high-octane, trailer trash world of Stateside smash Storage Hunters. However, there's been a new edition to the genre in recent weeks thanks to Posh Pawn, the documentary series uncovering the hidden world of high-end pawnbroking. This week we meet reformed 1980s cat burglar Sid. He hopes to raise cash with assistance from his family and their jewellery. Meanwhile, Prestige Pawnbrokers boss James gets a shock while test driving a client's superbike at Brands Hatch, and new employee Kristen has to value two huge tanzanite stones.

FRIDAY
The Trip to Italy
BBC2, 10pm
Steve and Rob visit Pompeii and then have lunch at Relais Blu on the Sorrento coast, overlooking the isle of Capri. Continuing their journey by car they head to the next hotel, where Rob receives a call from his agent telling him he has got the part in the movie he auditioned for.

The Beatles: The Night That Changed America – A Grammy Salute
ITV, 10.35pm
Entertainment special commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fab Four's ground-breaking first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show and celebrating their legacy. Songs performed on that momentous evening in 1964, as well as Beatles hits through the years, are covered here by some of the biggest names in music, including Maroon 5, Katy Perry, Ed Sheeran, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys and John Legend, and Eurythmics – reuniting for one night only. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr team up for Hey Jude and With a Little Help from My Friends.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

15	18	18	10	■	4	12	20	20	15	25	14	17
25	■	12	■	■	12	■	■	12	■	8	■	2
26	■	8	18	4	20	18	22	17	■	22	■	18
18	19	18	■	■	■	3	■	■	15	25	4	4
8	■	10	■	13	25	22	10	■	■	14	■	23
■	11	25	24	18	■	2	■	26	12	18	4	4
■	■	■	■	18	■	18	■	8	■	■	■	■
20	6	4	18	8	■	5	■	18	3	25	11	■
15 L	■	15	■	■	13	12	8	19	■	11	■	21
25 A	20	18	3	■	■	18	■	■	■	6	7	18
22	■	25	■	25	23	8	9	25	16	18	■	17
23	■	24	■	23	■	■	6	■	■	1	■	23
7	25	19	1	8	18	25	10	■	8	25	23	7

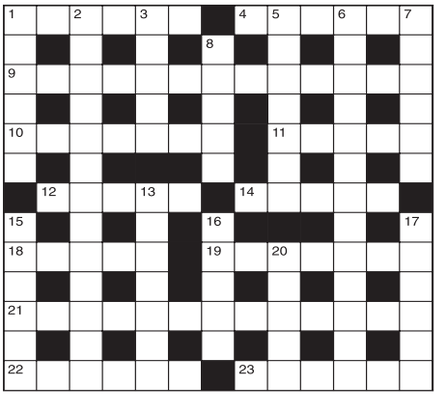
1	14
2	15 L
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 A
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	A	U	X	Q	B	Z	S	P	C	T	H	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	E	M	K	L	Y	G	V	I	W	D	N	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It may get broken - put it down! (6)
4. Don't contract for a feast (6)
9. He should know how to get people to make outstanding contributions (4-9)
10. Contacts by telephone and makes men join the army (5,2)
11. In the advertisement anger is ventilated (5)
12 & 6 Dn. What the stage electrician provides? (5,13)
14. About to bet on a kind of race (5)
18. Ice may accompany rich food (5)
19. To inflame the feelings in what is reasonable, we hear (7)
21. The state of the team who receive no vocal encouragement? (13)
22. Give evidence that a teetotaller is attached to a different set (6)
23. Are those off this track defeated? (6)

Down

1. Don't increase the weight - cut the price (6)
2. Comrade-in-arms (2-11)
3. Competitions for those with common characteristics? (5)
5. Before the deceased archbishop (7)
6. See 12 Across
7. Being out of order, I deliberately adopt a mocking attitude (6)
8. Makes uncertain progress causing mistakes (5)
13. Funny sounding part associated with a member (7)
15. Sensitive plant raised in Jamaica carefully! (6)
16. Bad habits they won't let go (5)
17. Logically think out the cause (6)
20. Social distinction is rejected, we hear (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Retiring (6)
4. Firm (6)
9. Mixed (13)
10. Loiters (7)
11. Anaesthetic (5)
12. Cleave (5)
14. Employers (5)
18. Denude (5)
19. Dispossess (7)
21. Amusement (13)
22. Abandon (6)
23. Pure (6)

Down

1. Mutter (6)
2. Crumbles (13)
3. Riddle (5)
5. Offers (7)
6. Comradeship (13)
7. Make certain (6)
8. Near (5)
13. Sovereign (7)
15. Climb (6)
16. Perfect (5)
17. Pay bill (6)
20. Nip (5)

Sudoku

					2	1		7
	2		4	7				
9					5		4	3
6			1			8		
		9			6	7		
		5		8	3			6
1	3		9					8
		8		2	1		6	
5		4	8					2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	7	1	2	4	8	3	6	5
8	2	5	7	6	3	1	4	9
4	6	3	5	1	9	8	7	2
6	9	4	3	2	7	5	1	8
7	3	2	8	5	1	6	9	4
1	5	8	4	9	6	7	2	3
5	4	6	1	8	2	9	3	7
3	8	9	6	7	4	2	5	1
2	1	7	9	3	5	4	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stout-hearted; 7 Groom; 8 Credo; 9 Oar; 10 Fishpaste; 11 Radish; 12 Ceding; 15 President; 17 Amp; 18 Extra; 19 Issue; 21 Green fingers. Down: 1 Stenographer; 2 Too; 3 Enmesh; 4 Recipient; 5 Evens; 6 Foreign parts; 7 Gored; 10 Fascinate; 13 Image; 14 Relief; 16 Enter; 20 Sun. QUICK - Across: 1 Pettifoggery; 7 Greet; 8 Tramp; 9 Ere; 10 Protector; 11 Unsure; 12 Finish; 15 Suffering; 17 Ban; 18 Twine; 19 Curve; 21 Unseasonable. Down: 1 Prerequisite; 2 Ire; 3 Option; 4 Gathering; 5 React; 6 Apprehensive; 7 Guess; 10 Persevere; 13 Imbue; 14 Discus; 16 Feign; 20 Run.

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- Two reception rooms
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33 SILVERTHORNE AVENUE OIRO £135,000
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- Three bedrooms
- Rear wet room extension
- Cosmetic updating & improvements required
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

100 OLD PARK ROAD O/A £119,500
DUDLEY
- Extended semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extended rear lounge & kitchen
- Some cosmetic updating required
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

15 NEW ROWLEY ROAD O/A £115,000
DUDLEY
- Edwardian end terraced house
- Two bedrooms & attic room
- Deceptively spacious
- Majority gas central heating
- DUDLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E

39 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £109,950
TIPTON
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Partial gas central heating
- Extended accommodation
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

24 FOSTER AVENUE £107,950
COSELEY
- Terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- uPVC double glazing
- Gas central heating
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

5 ANDERSLEIGH DRIVE £109,950
COSELEY
- End terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Car parking space
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

10 EDMUND ROAD £99,950
UPPER GORNAL
- Semi detached house
- Two bedrooms
- Large bathroom
- Large garden plot
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

267 STOURBRIDGE ROAD OIRO £90,000
DUDLEY
- Extended terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious accommodation
- Open outlook to rear over Woodside Park
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC E

3 WALFORD STREET £89,500
TIVIDALE
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- Communal gardens
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For further details call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744.

This four-bed home has a great location

A VASTLY improved and superbly re-appointed, modern, four bedroomed detached family home, Beech Cottage, Stream Road, Kingswinford lies in a great location.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £345,000.

Set back behind a walled frontage with a mature tree screen and having an excellent driveway, it has an open plan reception hall, a lounge, a conservatory, dining room, re-fitted breakfast kitchen, a re-fitted utility, an inner lobby, four bedrooms (re-fitted shower room to the master), a re-fitted house bathroom, garage, carport and gardens with decking, patio and lawn.

The reception hall has a re-fitted cloakroom off, the dining room has a bay window, the lounge has a feature mantel fireplace and the conservatory has a tiled floor.

The re-fitted breakfast kitchen has cream Shaker-style units, a Lamona stainless steel gas hob with stainless steel canopy cooker hood over, Lamona integrated dishwasher, an integrated fridge freezer and a tiled floor.

Vanity

The master bedroom en-suite includes a large corner shower with a quadrant enclosure, while the re-fitted bathroom has a bath, wc, basin in a vanity cupboard, tiled walls and a chrome ladder radiator.

For further information contact The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 287622 or visit the website at www.leeshaw.com

HOME OF THE WEEK

Plot 20 - The Archford

3 bedroom mid-terraced home with tandem parking space and ensuite to master bedroom. PLUS! Stamp duty paid and free flooring throughout!*

Only £182,000

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SKITTS
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EPC: D

Sedgley
Rowan Road

- Two bed end-terraced property
- Freshly decorated throughout
- GCH & DG
- Dining kitchen with cooker
- Available immediately

£550pcm

EPC: D

Dudley
Burton Road

- Three bedrooms
- Kitchen with appliances
- GCH and part DG
- Downstairs bathroom
- Available immediately
- Tipton office

£495pcm

EPC: B

Sedgley
North One Mews

- Two bed apartment
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- GCH and DG
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating B
- Sedgley office

£495pcm

EPC: C

Brierley Hill
Columbus Avenue

- Two bed apartment
- Top floor
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Opposite Merry Hill Shopping Centre
- Master bedroom with ensuite

£495pcm

EPC: C

The Straits
Tennyson Road

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- GCH & DG
- Bathroom with bath and

£475pcm

EPC: D

Kingswinford
Maidensbridge Road

- Ground floor flat
- Communal gardens
- Bathroom with shower
- Large double bedroom
- Useful internal storage area
- Tipton office

£450pcm

EPC: D

Kingswinford
Ragees Road

- Charming one bed ground floor studio flat
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fully Furnished
- Bathroom with shower cubicle
- Double glazing

£350pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Horace Street

- One bed flat
- Additional study/ store room
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- GCH
- Energy Rating - D

£425pcm

EPC: B

Coseley
Yew Tree Lane

- Two bed apartment
- Kitchen with gas hob
- GCH and DG
- Bathroom with bath and shower

£425pcm

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Guide: £18,000-£24,000

7 New Street, Tipton
3 Bed Mid Terraced
Guide: £19,000 - £25,000

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KINGSWINFORD	818 High Street	01384 401777
BRIERLEY HILL	84-86 High Street	01384 265265
STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

Wordsley

Mellowdew Road

A SUBSTANTIAL MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is extended to the front, rear and side, now offering an INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED/APPOINTED layout of family accommodation, all within a sought after location, offering: Reception Hall, large extended Lounge, extended Dining Room, Breakfast Room, fitted Kitchen, separate Utility/Laundry, ground floor WC, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, refitted Shower Room, separate WC; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Slightly elevated beyond BROAD DRIVEWAY with GARAGE and a BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£269,950

QUARRY BANK

Bower Lane

This Victorian style, double fronted, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR / FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides truly versatile living space over two floors, and simply must be viewed to appreciate the size / standard of accommodation provided. The deceptively spacious property briefly comprises: well proportioned Living Room with multifuel stove, Kitchen with a range of units, Utility, Guest WC, Sitting / Dining Room, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, Study / Occasional Bedroom Five, Shower Room, Driveway, lengthy sectional Garage, and a low maintenance Rear Garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£245,000

GORNAL / PENSNETT

Cassandra Close

Delightfully located upon highly sought after 'Badgers Rise' and enjoying an ATTRACTVE FRONT OUTLOOK onto established trees, this THOUGHTFULLY AND ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and VERY WELL APPOINTED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: reception hall, ground floor guest cloakroom / W.C, spacious large lounge, separate dining room area, enlarged and attractively refitted dining kitchen with built-in appliances, FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, re-appointed 'classic white' bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With small fore garden with shrubs, GOOD SIZED 'CRETE PRINT' STYLE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a LEVEL, WELL LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£242,500

Wordsley

Newbury Road

This THOUGHTFULLY ENLARGED DORMER SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW is greatly enhanced by a SUPERBLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN and is very well placed upon highly sought after 'Ashwood Park', offering SPACIOUS and VERSATILE accommodation which requires some updating, yet provides EXCELLENT POTENTIAL and comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, TWO GROUND FLOOR BEDROOMS, bathroom, TWO FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and MOST UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Having a GOOD SIZED BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a GENTLY TIERED AND BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£174,950

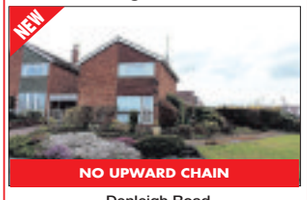
Kingswinford

Moss Grove

Superbly located within short walking distance of the heart of Kingswinford, this DISTINCTIVE and MOST DECEPTIVE MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a SPACIOUS and VERY WELL PROPORTIONED layout of BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: Reception Hall, ground floor Guests Cloakroom/ W.C, large full depth Lounge, luxury fitted Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances, THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS (Master with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM), attractive House Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and remainder of a 10 YEAR NHBC BUILDERS WARRANTY. Having DRIVE/PARKING SPACE, GARAGE and ATTRACTIVE LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£174,950

Kingswinford



Denleigh Road

Enjoying an EXTREMELY GENEROUS CORNER POSITION within this address conveniently located just off Bromley Lane and upon highly sought after 'High Acres', this MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers SPACIOUS accommodation which REQUIRES UPDATING but which provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious 'L' shaped Lounge-with-Dining Area, Kitchen, ground floor W.C, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING. With beautifully landscaped front/side gardens, LONG DRIVEWAY, CARPORT - GARAGE and a BROAD ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£169,950

Kingswinford

Sycamore Road

This DISTINCTIVE, SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED AND EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is greatly enhanced by a DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, together with LOFT CONVERSION and offers MOST IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation comprising: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, attractive 'L' shaped Lounge-with-Dining Area, CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, beautifully refitted Kitchen, separate Utility Room, ground floor W.C, THREE BEDROOMS, attractively re-appointed Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and a pleasant patio/lawned rear garden which benefits from an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£151,950

Kingswinford

Charterfield Drive

An IMMPRESIVE MODERN END TOWN HOUSE with THREE BEDROOMS and GARAGE within sought after Charterfields, offering VERY WELL PRESENTED and SPACIOUS accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, Large Lounge with Dining Room Area off, LUXURY REFITTED KITCHEN with appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Front Garden, Rear Garden with patio/ lawns and GARAGE. EPC Rating: TBA .KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777.

£146,950

Kingswinford

Standhills Road

Located within this extremely sought after and established address, this DISTINCTIVE, THOUGHTFULLY AND ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOME is greatly enhanced by a GOOD SIZED DRIVEWAY plus a GARAGE and offers SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED accommodation which is well appointed throughout to offer: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, attractive 'L' shaped Lounge-with-Dining Area, spacious refitted Kitchen, TWO EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, re-appointed Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property enjoys a LARGE, ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN with PLEASANT OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£139,950

WOODSETTON

Masefield Avenue

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached has been the subject of a comprehensive scheme of modernisation/ improvement by the current owners, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of the accommodation provided. The impressive property briefly comprises; entrance porch, welcoming hall, stylish lounge with bay, splendid dining room, fabulous refitted 'Avanti' kitchen with integrated appliances. Three bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a white suite. Garage, and a pleasant lawned garden. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

Kingswinford

Wolverhampton Road

A VERY LARGE & STUNNING FIRST FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT with GARAGE and PARKING SPACE, set within this converted period building, offering an EXPENSIVELY RE-APPOINTED and TASTEFULLY DECORATED LAYOUT of GENEROUS accommodation comprising: Huge Lounge with Dining Area, luxury refitted Kitchen with appliances, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, Inner Hall, luxury refitted Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and REPLACEMENT UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set within maintained gardens and grounds. EPC: TBA KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£134,950

DUDLEY

Somery Road

An EXTENDED and conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular neighbourhood. Accommodation provides; enlarged reception hall, sitting room with bay, understairs w.c., rear lounge with bay, extended 17'6" breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Substantial garage, delightful/lengthy/sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £126,950

Wordsley

Clock Tower View

A STUNNING, INDIVIDUAL TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT forming part of the popular Heritage Buildings at Crystal Mead, Shropshire Homes thoughtful conversion of the former Wordsley Hospital Clock Tower, offering IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS, VERSATILE and STYLISHLY APPOINTED accommodation all beautifully presented throughout to offer: delightful open plan lounge / dining room to beautifully appointed kitchen with built-in appliances, EXCELLENT FITTED MASTER BEDROOM, bedroom 2 / sitting room, attractively appointed bathroom; ELECTIC HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING and NHBC BUILDMARK WARRANTY. The property is approached from the secure communal lobby with entry phone security system, ALLOCATED CAR PARKING plus VISITOR PARKING. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£114,950

Wordsley

Kinver Street

Pleasantly located NEIGHBOURING ATTRACTIVE PARK GROUNDS and just a short distance from canal-side walks out towards Kinver, this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offers SPACIOUS and GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, SPLENDID LARGE LOUNGE, fitted Kitchen (in need of updating), Utility/useful Store, TWO EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS and refitted 'classic white' Bathroom. Set back beyond a GOOD SIZED BLOCK PAVED FORECOURT and enjoying a patio/lawned rear garden which benefits from OPEN SIDE/REAR ASPECTS. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£107,500

Brierley Hill

Corbett Road

This traditional style, part uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom mid terrace property is situated in an established residential location, and may represent an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, guest w.c, three good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, driveway, and a lengthy rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£102,950

PENSNETT

Hodnet Drive

This much improved, modern style, Double Glazed (vast majority of units being uPVC), Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM MID TOWNHOUSE is beautifully presented throughout, and may particularly appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS. The stylish accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen with a fine range of units, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite, Driveway and a level Rear Garden. EPC Rating TBA. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£99,950

Brierley Hill

Orchard Street

This traditional style uPVC Double Glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, TWO BEDROOM Semi-Detached home is situated in an established residential location and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Guest WC, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite, and a good size rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£79,950

Kingswinford

Bromley Lane

A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME within a desirable setting, set well back beyond a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE providing an ELEGANT and VERSATILE arrangement of HIGH SPECIFICATION accommodation, comprising: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, large 'L' shape Lounge, Second Sitting Room, formal Dining Room, Sun Lounge, Study, Cloaks Cupboard, LUXURY REFITTED KITCHEN with appliances, separate Laundry Room, ground floor Double Bedroom, ground floor House Bathroom, TWO FIRST FLOOR DOUBLE BEDROOMS with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM, DRESSING ROOM and separate WC. This unique property is enhanced further by the BEAUTIFULLY ESTABLISHED and SUNNY REAR GARDENS. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£299,500

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
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Taylors
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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

Wordsley

OPEN VIEW Sat 26th April 11-1pm

Middleway Avenue

BUILT TO A VERY HIGH SPECIFICATION IN 2013, this INDIVIDUAL & SUSTANTIAL DETACHED BUNGALOW is also SUPERBLY LOCATED close to shops and amenities, offering EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, HIGH SPEC. INSULATION, comprising: 'L' Shaped Reception Hall, Huge Lounge with multi fuel burner though to LUXURY FITTED KITCHEN with appliances and 'Island' unit, TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS and SPACIOUS BATHROOM with SEPARATE SHOWER. BROAD DRIVEWAY and an attractive rear garden with decking. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£284,950

LOWER GORNAL

Deepdale Lane

An imaginatively extended, highly individual, and comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow with PANORAMIC DISTANT views from the rear set in favoured district. The property has been "transformed" by present vendors over the years, and provides reception hall, "snug"/sitting room, magnificent 21'3" x 16' through lounge with patio doors out to a BALCONY, refitted kitchen, dining room (former bedroom). Two bedrooms, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite. There are steps down to a useful BASEMENT providing utility room, separate toilet & extensive storage. Large double garage, delightful gardens abutting on to school grounds. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £227,500

Brierley Hill

DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS

Delph Road

This most impressive, traditional style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides truly versatile living space over three floors, and simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the size / standard of accommodation provided. The deceptively spacious property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Through Lounge / Dining Room, Kitchen with a fine range of units / integrated appliances, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite, Basement incorporating Sitting Room, Bedroom Four with Ensuite, Block Paved Driveway providing ample Parking, Large Garage / Workshop to Rear, and Garden with Decked Patio Area. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£189,950

DUDLEY — Richborough Drive

A quite exceptional highly individual and tremendously enhanced FREEHOLD gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached enviably situated head of convenient cul-de-sac with PANARAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Enhanced accommodation provides superb refitted kitchen with various integrated appliances and granite work surfaces, transverse lounge and CONSERVATORY beyond, former garage subdivided to create utility room and occasional fourth bedroom. To the first floor is a principle bedroom with STEAM ROOM en suite and two further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, parking, landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the region of £189,950

SEDGLEY

Queens Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A Freehold, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed detached most conveniently situated in a well regarded district within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring, and all associated amenities. Accommodation includes; reception hall, cloaks, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

DUDLEY

Malthouse Drive

An exceptionally stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached that has been tremendously enhanced to a superb specification by present vendors occupying a fine corner plot in popular district. The tremendous accommodation includes; entrance hallway, reappointed/fitted cloakroom, lounge (with oak strip floor), dining room, and double doors through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, upgraded kitchen with an extensive range of "gloss cream" finish units with integrated appliances. Principal bedroom with "Sharpes" fitted units & an upgraded shower room en suite, two further bedrooms (one with wardrobe) and a refitted/retiled bathroom with contemporary white suite. Lengthy driveway, substantial brick garage, delightful secluded landscaped rear garden with decking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £175,000

WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton Road East

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, mostly uPVC double glazed DETACHED HOUSE designed to take maximum advantage of individual sloping site. Accommodation includes 19ft reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, lounge, third bedroom with steps down to the lower ground floor having a hallway, two generous double bedrooms, bathroom & store, secluded rear garden with gated service driveway at rear giving access to extensive slabbed parking & TWO SINGLE BRICK GARAGES. Internal inspection vital to appreciate potential. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £174,950

LOWER GORNAL

Straits Road

This modern style, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached family home would now ideally benefit from certain cosmetic modernisation/improvement yet offers excellent potential & is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The surprisingly spacious property comprises entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, CONSERVATORY, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom, larger than average garage, driveway & gardens to three sides. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

DUDLEY

Harvard Close

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom detached family is situated in a cul-de-sac location and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, guest w.c. Three bedrooms (with en suite to master), bathroom with white suite. Garage, driveway and rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

WOODSETTON

Shenley Avenue

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, and particularly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & either uPVC or aluminium double glazed semi detached in favoured "backwater". Presented in exemplary order the superb accommodation includes; enlarged entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 25 ft through living room/dining room (possibilities of re-subdivision?), extended breakfast kitchen. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Lengthy 21'4" garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950

SEDGLEY

NEW PRICE

Turls Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated (combi boiler) uPVC double glazed detached excellently situated within walking distance of Sedgley's Bullring. Accommodation comprises porch, hall, fitted cloakroom, upgraded kitchen, spacious lounge/dining room, large uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, 2 bedrooms (originally 3 bedrooms), bathroom with white suite. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £162,750, NOW £157,950

DUDLEY

St. James Road

A most attractive, significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed traditional semi detached of character in favoured "tree lined" road within walking distance of town centre, and so many amenities. Accommodation includes; imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), 27'4" through living room (formerly separate rooms) with bay, and double French doors to garden, refitted kitchen with a fine range of "beech" effects units, and various integrated appliances, pantry. Three bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers around £149,995

SEDGLEY

Bilston Street

DOUBLE GARAGE AT REAR! A deceptively spacious freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently positioned within walking distance of Sedgleys bullring and all associated amenities. A number of period features have been retained/enhanced. Accommodation comprises traditional reception hall, store, dining room with open fireplace, transverse lounge with open fireplace, inner vestibule and superb 17'1" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units. Two (potentially three) bedrooms, bathroom, secluded/sheltered rear garden and substantial concrete panel 20ft x 17ft contractors garage. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £132,750

DUDLEY

Manderston Close

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated two bedroom semi detached home is situated in a well regarded cul de sac and may represent an ideal first time buy. The well presented property briefly comprises; stylish lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, guest WC, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite and rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

LANESFIELD

Ward Grove

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated. two bedroom semi detached home being well presented throughout, and may particularly appeal to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance hall, lounge, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of units. Two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a white suite. Driveway, and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £123,950

QUARRY BANK

IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY

Anne Road

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi-detached home is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, and may particularly appeal to both first time buyers or young families alike. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, through lounge, conservatory, kitchen, utility / dining area, three bedrooms, bathroom with corner suite, driveway, and rear garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£116,950

COSELEY

Cox Road

A comparatively spacious, freehold, significantly modernised & improved, RECENTLY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached in relatively quiet 'backwater'. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, upgraded breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units & a large cupboard off. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite & a shower, separate toilet, further stores. GARAGE (rear vehicular access), neat gardens. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950

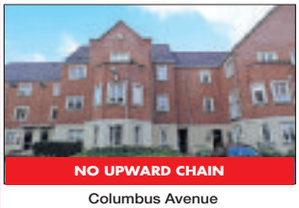
COSELEY

Hessian Close

This neatly presented traditional style uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home is available with no upward chain, and may appeal to both young families and first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, attached utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc and a good sized rear garden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

Brierley Hill



NO UPWARD CHAIN

Columbus Avenue

This MODERN STYLE, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom first floor flat provides SUPRISINGLY SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION, and is CONVENIENTLY SITUATED for local amenities. The property is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and briefly comprises: secure communal entrance / stairs, private hall, open plan lounge / dining area / kitchen, two good bedrooms (master with en-suite), bathroom with white suite, communal grounds, and allocated parking. EPC Rating B. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£94,955

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NETHERTON

WORCESTER ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Shower Room, Downstairs Toilet, Three Bedrooms, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

WORDSLEY

BRACKEN PARK GARDENS

£435 pcm*

Top Floor Flat, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Sealed Units, Off Road Parking

DUDLEY

MONCRIEFFE CLOSE

£415 pcm*

Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Private Parking, unfurnished

LYE

TALBOT STREET

£410 pcm*

Modern Ground Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.

BRIERLEY HILL

BRETTELL LANE

£150 pw*

Main Road shop premises, currently fully fitted out for butchery business, very clean and well presented. Lots of space and facilities. Rent £150 per week. Lease terms negotiable.

LANESFIELD

FARRINGTON ROAD

£650 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

AMBLECOTE

PLATTS CRESCENT

£750 pcm*

Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Utility, Downstairs Toilet, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden

KINGSWINFORD

MARLEY ROAD

£675 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Toilet, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Corner Plot/Gardens, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

PENSNETT

TANSEY GREEN ROAD

£560 pcm*

Modern Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden

BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE

£410 pcm*

Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

DUDLEY

BOURNE STREET

£375 pcm*

Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off road parking

SEDGLEY

KINGS ROAD

£495 pcm*

Mid Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

NETHERTON

PURLIN WHARF

£550 pcm*

Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, · Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking

WORDSLEY

CHAPEL STREET

£425 pcm*

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing,Unfurnished

WOODSETTON

SEDGLEY ROAD

£550 pcm*

Terraced Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

PENSNETT

AVON CLOSE

£575 pcm*

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

PENSNETT

TANSEY GREEN ROAD

£530 pcm*

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Garage at rear, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

QUARRY BANK

WHITE CITY ROAD

£575 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear gardens, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

ADELAIDE STREET

£495 pcm*

Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

COT LANE

£795 pcm*

Detached Bungalow, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

GORNAL

NEW STREET

£525 pcm*

End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

BRIERLEY HILL

BISELL WAY

£395 pcm*

First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

TIVIDALE

OAKTHORPE GARDENS

£450 pcm*

Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

STANDHILLS ROAD

£595 pcm*

Semi Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

(Administration/application fees will apply)

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PENSNETT
CORBYNS HALL ROAD

Pleasantly situated in this ever popular address, this attractively presented Traditional 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides well planned double glazed accom which although requires cosmetic upgrading and improvement provides TREMENDOUS FURTHER POTENTIAL For the young family. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN the accommodation includes:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens and Lawned Front Garden.EPC=F

Offers around £114,950

BRIERLEY HILL
WALDRON AVENUE

This attractively presented 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time buyer and is pleasantly situated in this popular address. Hall, Spacious Lounge, REFITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, Downs W.C., 3 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant good sized Rear Gardens with pleasant southerly facing aspect and backing onto Canal and Block Paved Driveway to the Front.EPC=TBC

Offers around £107,500

BROCKMOOR
PHEASANT STREET

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address, this 2 Bedroomed Semi-Detached provides spacious well planned, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED accommodation with Upvc replacement windows ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. With TREMENDOUS FURTHER POTENTIAL the accommodation includes:- Hall, Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, Utility, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with nice outlook and driveway to front. EPC=D

Offers around £89,950

BRIERLEY HILL
DELPH ROAD

CASH OFFERS INVITED ! Tthis much improved, extended Traditional Semi provides versatile, spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family. Hall, Lounge, sep Dining Room, Conservatory, attractively fitted extended Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven and hob and dishwasher, Laundry/Utility Room, Downstairs Shower Room, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, feature Attic Bedroom, pleasant good sized rear Gardens and block paved driveway for 3/4 cars.EPC=E

Offers around £125,000

BROCKMOOR
FOXFOOT DRIVE

Pleasantly situated in this ever popular and convenient address, this attractively presented 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family or First Time Buyer. Hall, Spacious Lounge, Double Glazed CONSERVATORY, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower, pleasant low maintainance Rear Gardens with Southerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2 cars to the Front.EPC=D

Offers around £118,950

BRIERLEY HILL
SPRINGFIELD ROAD

A superbly appointed, much improved and lovingly maintained 3 Bed End Townhouse, pleasantly situated on a 'corner' plot in this convenient address and providing spacious EXTENDED GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer . Briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Downstairs Bathroom with W.C., Superb REFITTED DINING KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, 3 good sized Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Delightfully kept Lawned Rear Gardens and Driveway Parking.EPC=D

Offers around £104,950

BRIERLEY HILL
FISHER STREET

Pleasantly situated in this small cul-de-sac leading from this popular and convenient address, this attractively presented 3 Bed Semi Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer and briefly comprises:- Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., 3 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Landscaped Good Sized Rear Gardens and Block Paved Driveway for 2 Cars to the Front. EPC=D

Offers around £98,950

PENSNETT
HODNET DRIVE

Enjoying a WIDER THAN AVERAGE frontage in this popular cul-de-sac this Modern 2 Bedroomed End Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family.Viewing highly recommended with Hall, Spacious Lounge, attractively REFITTED Dining Kitchen, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, Pleasant Lawned Rear and side Gardens and DRIVEWAY FOR 2 CARS to the front. EPC = D

Offers around £97,500

BRIERLEY HILL
ROOKERY AVENUE

An attractively presented 2 Bed Semi providing spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Stylish Lounge, SUPERB REFITTED KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, Downstairs W.C., Useful Laundry/Utility Room, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens and Driveway to the Front. EPC=F

Offers around £85,950

BRIERLEY HILL
FOXDALE DRIVE

This attractively presented Modern 2 Bed Second Floor Flat is pleasantly situated on this popular modern development and provides well planned UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the first time buyer and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises:- Secure Main Entrance, Hall, 'L' shaped Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Maintained Communal Grounds and allocated Car Parking Space in bay to the front.EPC=E

Offers over £60,000

BRIERLEY HILL
GORDON CRESCENT

This attractively presented well maintained Modern One Bed First Floor Flat, provides spacious well planned Upvc double glazed accom ideal for the INVESTOR or retired and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address with Electric Heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises:- Secure Entrance Hall, Landing, Spacious Lounge, Large Refitted Dining Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Superb Refitted Wet Room and Communal Gardens.MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY DUE TO SHORTER LEASE. EPC=D

Offers around £52,950

NETHERTON
ST. JOHN'S STREET

Superb Spacious 2 Bedroom First Floor 'Duplex' Apartment providing delightful Gas Centrally Heated and Double Glazed accom very conveniently positioned in the heart of Netherton● Hall, Spacious Lounge, Superb Fitted Kitchen with Built in Oven and Hob, Superb Bathroom with Separate Shower, 2 Bedrooms (Master on 2nd Floor) and Car Parking Space in Courtyard to Rear. No Pets/DSS/Smokers. Deposit £750.00. Available Immediately.EPC=B Fees Apply

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ADAM a new take on sector

Commercial feature

The ADAM is Vauxhall's refreshingly different take on the small-car sector.

It doesn't replace the brand's conventional citycar and supermini offerings but it does offer a more stylish option for buyers bored by the sight of BMW's reinvented MINI on every drive and unmoved by Fiat's funky 500. Here's a fashionable alternative with an encyclopaedic list of options.

The ADAM is available in three trim levels – Jam, Glam and Slam. Here, we focus on the ADAM Jam, which offers a fresh and bold modern look. It comes in two-tone design style both inside and out, and an expressive palette of colours are available which will grab and keep people's attention.

No fewer than 12 body colours means you can create a cool two-tone look with three optional roof packs.

Inside, you also have a choice of colour schemes and both are eyecatching. Vauxhall has thought of everything as far as style goes as even your ADAM's key matches your exterior choice.

The ADAM Jam Extreme takes you to the next level. Here you're provided with a coloured roof, front logo bar and stunning 17in Hurricane alloy wheels.

There's a vast amount of choice with ADAM Jam trim with prices starting from £11,805.

There's a lot of promise about the Vauxhall Mokka too. It looks good, it's well equipped and it offers buyers a number of well-thought-out options. The design is handsome, and it looks to be one of those car shapes which will age very well while more radical competitors date rapidly.

Top-of-the-range Exclusiv trim level brings even more colour, style and luxury to the Mokka, which has clearly been designed for the urban environment, but that's not to say the ability to be driven off-road has been totally neglected. To this end, Vauxhall wisely offers both front and four-wheel drive chassis options, with the all-wheel drive mechanicals being fully adaptive.

'The design is handsome, and it looks to be one of those car shapes which will age very well while more radical competitors date rapidly.'

Exclusiv specification includes a multitude of standard features. Air conditioning and dual-zone climate control, DMB digital radio with CD/MP3 with aux-in socket and USB connection and iPod control along with Bluetooth functionality are all included within the Exclusiv package.

In addition to all this, you'll find the Mokka Exclusiv with steering wheel-mounted audio controls, cruise control, silver-effect roof rails, rain-sensitive windscreen wipers, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors, front and rear electric windows, front fog lights, front and rear parking sensors, a leather covered steering wheel, stainless steel exhaust tailpipe and highly attractive sterling silver-effect 18in alloy wheels.

That's a pretty comprehensive tally and the list of standard safety features is just as generous with traction control, decent control system, switchable electronic stability programme, hill start assist, anti-lock braking system and a full complement of airbags to protect all the Mokka's occupantsy.

Prices for the Mokka Exclusiv start at £18,064.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.#

Personal contract hire offer on Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 in Orange Rock and Adam JAM 1.2i 16v VVT in brilliant white on orders received between 2 April and 1 July 2014, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for Mokka based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £3,383, then 35 monthly rentals of £199. Excess annual miles over 10,000 charged at 11.08ppm. Figures for Adam based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,980, then 23 monthly rentals of £99. Excess annual miles over 8,000 charged at 7.14ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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04/54 Saab 9-3 1.8t Vector Convertible 51k, Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, E/Roof, CD Player
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Finance example: Renault Megane 1.9 dCi DIESEL Dynamique Convertible, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 60 Payments of £103 (£23.76 per week) Total amount payable £6480.00 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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Volkswagen's biggest-selling commercial vehicle model in the UK, the Transporter, now has class-leading fuel efficiency thanks to a host of recent updates to its flagship BlueMotion model.

Offering the ultimate in efficiency, the Transporter BlueMotion achieves a combined fuel economy of 48.7 mpg and emissions of only 153 g/km.

One tank of fuel can deliver a theoretical range of more than 850 miles, the equivalent of driving from Portsmouth to Prague. These figures represent a 3.9 mpg improvement in combined fuel economy, and a 13 g/km reduction in emissions compared to the previous BlueMotion model.

The efficiency of the Transporter BlueMotion, which is available only as a panel van, is achieved by modifying the engine management system and transmission as well as using low rolling resistance tyres, start/stop and battery regeneration systems and cruise control. Every aspect of the vehicle's specification has been optimised to reduce weight and improve aerodynamics.

At the heart of the Transporter BlueMotion is the familiar 114 PS 2.0-litre TDI engine with common rail direct injection, which delivers a maximum of 250 Newton metres of torque.

The cleanest and most fuel-efficient Transporter panel van ever is available to order now through Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' Van Centre network. Prices start at just £19,245 (basic RRP ex. VAT).

For full details of the Transporter BlueMotion visit www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk, or call 0800 717131.

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AUDI A4 1.9 TDi SE AVANT 05 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 67k, FSH	£6995
VW PASSAT 2.0 TDi SE ESTATE 56 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 52k, FSH	£6995
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AUDI A3 1.4 T SPORT 57 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 53k, FSH	£7995
MERCEDES E320 CDi AvantGarde, 2006(55), 4-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 50k, FSH	£8495
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AUDI A3 1.9 TDi SPORT 59 Reg, 5-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 85k, FSH	SOLD
MERCEDES B160 BLUE EFFICIENCY SE 2011 (60 Reg) 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 48k, FSH	£8995
MERCEDES CLC 180 KOMPRESSOR SPORT 59 Reg, 3-dr, Red, Air Con, Alloys, Leather Seats, 57k, FSH	£9995
MERCEDES C220 CDi AUTO ELEGANCE 57 Reg (New Shape) Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 60k, FSH	£9995
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SEAT LEON 2.0 TSi CUPRA 59 Reg, 5-dr, White, Air Con, Alloys, 50k,FSH	SOLD
CITROEN DS3 1.6 SPORT 11 Reg, 3-dr, White, Air Con, Alloys, 24k FSH	£9995
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RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 07 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 41k, FSH	£3495
PEUGEOT 3008 1.6 HDi SPORT 60 Reg, 5-dr, Bronze, Air Con, Alloys, 41k, FSH	£8495
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New model from BMW is a change of direction

By David Banner

It did everything that was asked of it, and more, but the biggest problem lies in the minds of potential buyers.

Having a good idea is only half the battle – possibly even less than half. The difficult bit tends to be convincing others that you're not completely cracked.

And so it was with the 3GT. Because BMW has for many decades now fashioned its position as a creator of fabulous saloons, estates and coupes, but there appears to be something of a mental block for anything that doesn't fit into that template.

I must admit that, before it arrived, I wasn't sure whether I would gel with the Gran Turismo's looks. But in the flesh, and with the Sport pack including 19in wheels, it looked the business – to these eyes at least. Particularly because the 3 Series saloon is pretty much everywhere and a little individuality goes a long way.

Better still, the differing look is for a purpose, namely the extra space on the inside. It's significantly longer than the saloon and Touring and has more length in the wheelbase – although to look at, you wouldn't think it was significantly bigger.

The pay-off is in the back seats though, which offer limo-like space. True, it wasn't often than anyone taller than the kids travelled in the back, but as any parent knows, the more space, the better.

Handy

The same goes for the boot too. There's more space than the 3 Series Touring with seats up or down. Over the six months the 3's boot swallowed everything from a jet washer to a rabbit hutch and never batted an eyelid. The standard electric hatch and rear-mounted release for the rear seats came in exceptionally handy too.

My '3 had the most humble of the diesel offerings, with a modest 143bhp but a very healthy 235lb/ft of torque. As diesels do, it loosened up as the miles rolled by and the performance was always more than enough.

It was thrifty with it too, although the biggest hurdle with achieving good fuel economy was the driver. Over the six months it averaged 48mpg, and that was with me generally not behaving myself. On the rare occasions I gave it the full eco approach, it would hit 70 or even 80 miles per gallon on a long run.

The other simple thing is the 3 GT was great fun to drive. It steered and handled with the kind of precision you don't expect from a family car, and that just made it all the harder to behave myself. In truth, it spent plenty of time trudging up and down motorways, and the comfortable seats and good driving position made short work of that too.

So, basically, the biggest problem with the 3 GT is people think they need a Touring or a saloon instead. By all means go right ahead, but given the GT beats both for space, offers a better ride and is subtly different from all the other 3 Series out there, it's worth seriously considering this instead.

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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accommodation to let

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application has been made by Thanikan Packiyanathan, to the Licensing Authority of Dudley MBC, for a premises licence, in respect of premises to be known as: SSK Convenience Store, 35 Church Street, Pensnett, Brierley Hill, DY5 4HB.

The application includes the following terms:

1. To enable the sale of alcohol between Monday-Sunday 08.00-22.00, for consumption off the premises.

Full details of the application may be viewed at the Council Offices, Dudley Metropolitan Borough, Licensing Office, 5 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HL, during normal office hours, Monday to Friday.

Council's website = www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by responsible authorities, or other persons regarding the application, must be made in writing to the above licensing authority and they must be received no later than 15th May 2014.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

10 Personals

personal

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GENUINE MALE
I am 35 years old, attractive, with a GSOH, seeking a similar genuine lady, 28 - 40.
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West Midlands area.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P19179 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SLIM ATTRACTIVE WIDOW 60's
N/S, G.S.O.H. Sociable, loves travel, walks, music and laughter. Seeks male to share the good ordinary special times. Stafford and surrounding areas.
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Women seeking men

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WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 410127**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

NINA, black beauty, looking for discreet adult times with man any age. **Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box 409901**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049**

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641**

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949**

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

Men seeking women

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MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673**

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505**

KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997**

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335**

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305**

MALE 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411293**

INTELLIGENT sincere Shropshire male, slim, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411285**

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541**

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455**

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411297**

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253**

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109**

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099**

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, easy going male, N/S, 68, GSOH, seeks genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411083**

ADVENTUROUS 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

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Success for pair at swim contest

HALESOWEN swimmers, Chloe Finch and Richard Spoor made the long trip and both enjoyed a successful British Gas Swimming Championship in Glasgow recently.

They both made it through to the semi-finals and finals with both swimming faster than in their heats.

Spoor, competing for Loughborough University, was aiming for a spot on the England team even though the qualifying criteria was incredibly tough. In the 100m breaststroke Richard made it through to the semi-final but just missed out on a place in the final. In the 50m Breaststroke Spoor made the semi-final again but fell agonising short of a place in the final by just 7/100ths of a second.

Finch, competing for City of Birmingham, had a gruelling five days of competition in the 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle events and made it through to all of the junior finals. In the 200m Finch made it to the final and finished fourth. In the 800m freestyle shewon a bronze medal. On the final day it was fast swimming again for Finch, and in the 400m final grabbed another third place on the podium.

Yeltz move closer to winning division

Carlton 1 Halesowen 3

Football

THE Yeltz went one step closer to the Evo-Stik Division One South trophy with a tough, yet promising victory over top half side Carlton Town.

Halesowen made one change to the side that played Sheffield, as Asa Charlton replaced Brendan Kelly who returned to the bench.

The Yeltz were the dominant side throughout the first half, as on nine minutes, an error from the Carlton defence allowed Ben Haseley to take a chance at goal, as he slotted the ball under the keeper, but his shot was off-target and the ball rolled out of play.

The chance kept coming for The Yeltz as Aaron Griffiths' hit a shot that was well saved by Jonathan Viscosi and on 25 minutes, Christie's goal-bound header was just knocked past the post by Carlton's Billy Bennett.

Carlton first chance of the game came on the stroke of half time as Ben Flynn hit a volley from range that flew wide of the right hand post. The Yeltz went in at half-time to find out that Coalville had taken the lead against Leek, and so a victory was the minimal requirement from this game now.

The deadlock was eventually broken by Ben Haseley on 51 minutes as he latched on to a long ball and he nodded the ball easily over Viscosi and into the net, but the lead lasted all of two minutes as Grant Brindley nodded the corner ball over the Keeper and across the box to Daniel Elliott who was able to head the ball into an empty net .

Halesowen tried to get that all-important second goal as Joe Hull nodded the ball over to Ben Haseley, but he could only nod the ball wide,.

Yeltz got the second goal they were searching for on 78 minutes, as Ben Haseley was able to nod the ball into the net from point blank range to give his side the lead they desperately needed.

Seven minutes later, the Yeltz made sure they took all three points as Jean-Michel Gueyes fired into an empty net from six yards out. The Yeltz left Nottingham with all three points, but with Coalville beating Leek, Halesowen will have to hope Coalville slip up in their final two games.

Heroes ready to meet with the fans

CRADLEY fans have the chance to meet their heroes before next Tuesday's opening home league meeting of the season at Monmore.

The club are having team posters printed to give away to every supporter and they can get them signed at a rider autograph session between 6.30-7pm.

Buxton are the visitors as the Heathens look to make a winning start on home shale as they defend their National League title.

Co-boss Nigel Pearson said: "The current crop of riders are extremely popular with the fans and this is an opportunity for supporters to come along and get their poster signed.

"We appreciate the support we get week in and week out and this is just another way of the club giving something back to supporters. The poster will feature the full team and there will be team members available on entry to the stadium before they go for the track walk.

"We are also looking at putting other added attractions on at meetings later in the season, at no extra cost to the fans, because we want to show them how much we appreciate their backing."

Last minute goal sees the points shared out

Tividale 1 Walsall Wood 1

TIVIDALE put Wood under instant pressure and should have been ahead after just three minutes, late replacement Keiron Miller threading a ball into the right of the box to put Leigh Downing in on goal but a poor first touch rolled the ball to keeper Raajan Gill.

Football

Wood's first meaningful attack came on nine minutes, Lewis Taylor Boyce racing clear wide right, playing a neat 1-2 with Joey Butlin, his cross cut out by keeper Charles Price.

Dale's move broke down and the ball was played up to Butlin wide right, he made space for a right wing cross, Harry Harris getting in a header that Price saved comfortably.

From a right wing corner on 14 minutes the Wood defence lived dangerously, three shots were blocked by defenders and then Gill dived bravely at the feet of Miller.

With 16 minutes gone Taylor Boyce got clear again wide right, his low cross flashing cross the face of the six-yard box and eluding everyone.

Two minutes later a ball over the top almost put Miller clear, Lee Stretton managing to touch the ball back to Gill who just managed to kick the ball away from Miller.

After 23 minutes Taylor Boyce again made space wide right before playing the ball inside to Harris on the right edge of the box who hit a rising drive that was tipped away by Price. Butlin was first to the loose ball but was denied by a superb tackle from Luke Paskin, loud penalty appeals ignored. Butlin charged down an attempted clearance by Paskin on 37 minutes and fed Taylor Boyce on the edge of the box, his first time effort was blocked, the ball fell to Craig Hancox to hit a first time low drive inches wide.

A minute later the Champions went ahead, a right wing corner was punched away by Gill but was delivered back into the danger zone, skipper Mark Smith climbing highest to loop a header into the left hand corner.

On 65 minutes Andre Gonzales won the ball near the left hand corner and played the ball back to Harris, he cut inside and his low drive was saved at full stretch by Price.

With the Champions looking to have held out another ball was hit out wide to the left, this time it was collected at pace by Andre Gonzales who cut inside and his low drive beat the right hand of the diving Price and justice was done.

Running club's marathon medal marvels

All smiles from the athletes of Dudley Kingswinford Running Club who competed in the London and Rotterdam marathons. Sixteen runners took on the London course: Dave Norman, Lorna Hulme, Matt Bigg, Graham Wildgoose, Mark Homer, Simon Hughes, Mark Judge, Andy Litchfield, Liz Hettle3, Karen Doy, Dave Garbutt, Janetta Sanders, Natalie Litchfield, Helen Williamson Sam Hemming and Laura Evenson. Club chairman Mick Quane and Catherine Quane competed in Holland on the same weekend.

Sports in last eight with ease

Bilston 1 Dudley Sports 2

DUDLEY Sports progressed to the quarter-final of the West Midlands League Premier Division Cup with victory at Bilston.

The game last Wednesday began with both teams having half-chances but neither troubled the keepers. Sports took the lead on 20 minutes after Bilston failed to clear, Conner Mayher thumping home from 20 yards. They got a second when a Richie Jones shot somehow found its way in with a little help from the Bilston keeper.

They should have got a third on the stroke of half-time when Jones found himself clear but his shot was saved. Bilston got one back in the 80th minute but Sports eased through.

Casuals let lead slip away

Smethwick Rangers 2 W-ton Casuals 2

Casuals twice held the lead but they dropped two vital West Midland Premier division points in the race for promotion.

Wolves went in front in the 18th minute when the unmarked Angelo Franco at the near post put the finishing touch to an Adrian Jones corner.

Rangers rocked the visitors by equalising in the 60th minute Gurjit Singh latched onto a long clearance to beat Tim Beech.

Casuals hit back to regain the lead in the 75th through Chris Henry from six yards. Casuals lead was short lived though when Singh rifled home a superb 25 yard free kick.

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WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Fan-tastic – Wolves players celebrate the third goal in front of the travelling support which, once again this season, was superb

Playoffs nearer after a high five

Stourbridge 5
Banbury united 0

GARY HACKETT'S men moved a step closer to sealing a place in the end of season play-offs as they eased to a 5-0 home victory over lowly Banbury United.

Once they forged in-front after 10 minutes the Glassboys never looked back.

Leon Broadhurst opened the scoring.

On 36 minutes Scott Dutton thwarted Brian Smikle, smothering his shot at the expense of a corner after Smikle had pursued a kick down-field from Dean Coleman.

Six minutes before the interval Stourbridge doubled their advantage asKayelden Brown nicked the ball over Duttond.

Stourbridge made a positive start to the second half and extended their lead inside two minutes. Brown fastened on to a ball from Billingham to get in behind the Banbury defence and he tucked away a low shot. Brian Smikle made it four in the 58th minute .

More good approach play led to a fifth goal after 65 minutes with a back-heel from Smikle setting up Billingham who drilled the ball low past Dutton at his near post.

The Glassboys could have had more.

Thorne hints at Rams stay

ALBION midfielder George Thorne has hinted he could stay at Derby next season if he helps the Rams reach the Premier League.

Thorne scored his first Derby goal to cap a man-of-the-match display in Friday's 2-0 win at Doncaster.

And the 21-year-old has hinted he could be tempted into an extended loan or permanent switch to the Rams if they reach the top flight.

Steve McClaren's men look on course for the Championship play-offs and Thorne said: "I've always said I want to be playing in the Premier League next season but it could be with Derby. I want to get promoted with Derby and then sit down and review things.

"Ideally you'd like automatic promotion, but if it comes down to a day at Wembley we'd back ourselves in a one off game."

Leyton Orient 1 Wolves 3

KENNY JACKETT'S side are by some way the best side in League One this season, and, as their points total reflects, one of the most superior teams at this level for some time.

In that dizzying spell of goals and victories, Jackett's boys have hit the net 47 times and conceded just 11.

As overworked keeper Carl Ikeme said after their win over Orient, it's not always been as easy as the league table or those statistics now suggest.

There have been many times when fine

Football

marginal decisions have swung games one way or the other.

But at almost every turn since that miserable defeat at Gillingham on January 3, Wolves have found a way to win.

Transformation certainly isn't too strong a word for the changes that have taken place not just this season but even since these sides last met.

Victory

Back in December, Orient were top dogs while Wolves trailed them and Monday's victory meant the distance between them is now 19 points.

Wolves have taken 50 points out of the last 57 available – Orient have taken 26. Such a gulf wasn't visible at the Matchroom Stadium as the Os snapped away at Wolves like terriers in a no-holds-barred encounter, but the visitors showed for the umpteenth time why they are where they are.

Yes, you can argue things went their way – none more so than when Richard Stearman's clear handball in the penalty area was missed by referee Neil Swarbrick after 28 minutes when they were 1-0 ahead. Not for the first time this season did a decision go for them, but full marks to them for making the most of their opportunity. Four minutes later, Bakary Sako struck to make it 2-0 to finally draw level with long-departed Leigh Griffiths at the top of the club scoring charts.

And thereafter there was a certain inevitability about the outcome.

By then Stearman had nodded Wolves in front.

Two goals ahead, you might have been forgiven for thinking Wolves could have eased up a little. But that is not Jackett's way and it certainly wasn't the way the game was going. Perhaps as a gesture to their own admirable but flawed title hopes, Orient were like a dog with a bone and tore at the visitors' defence either side of half-time.

As Orient's pressure reached its zenith on the stroke of half-time, Chris Dagnall's effort was correctly disallowed for offside.

Surprise

And after Ikeme foiled Dagnall and Mooney within the opening minute of the restart, it was little surprise when Cox side-footed home to halve the deficit 60 seconds later after Wolves failed to clear a high ball into the box.

James Henry's 30-yard drive that ripped past Jones in extra time added the gloss. Wolves fans won't care if it was flattering. They are champions and on their way back.

Champs style by Tividale

Tividale 3 Heath Hayes 1

HAYES lost this crucial game in their relegation fight to the newly-crowned Midland Alliance League Champions in controversial fashion being denied a penalty and having to play the last half hour with10 men.

With three minutes remaining of the first half controversy broke out when Harry Phillips was penalised for a tackle on Tivs striker Nathan Waite 20 yards from goal and Zac Foster's superbly struck free kick nestled into the corner of the net.

Tivs then enjoyed their best spell of the game and Ashley Jackson finished off a fine move in style. Hayes were then reduced to 10 men when Liam Degville was dismissed for a second bookable offence.

When substitute Leigh Downing further increased the home side's lead it looked game over.

However, the visitors produced a spirited rally and deservedly reduced the arrears when Dave Waple headed home. But the home side showed why they are the new champions to play out the rest of the game.

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Ellie adds gold medal to haul

ELLIE SIMMONDS won 400m freestyle gold to claim her second medal of the British Para-Swimming International meet on the final day in Glasgow.

The Paralympic and world champion lowered her time by more than a second to finish in 5.26.52 and secured her third qualification for the contest.

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